Deloitte.

Australia's Youth Agenda: A little less conversation, a little more climate action

2026

Deloitte
Access Economics

A little less conversation, a little more climate action

Introduction

In August 2025, Deloitte Access Economics released *Australia's Youth Agenda: Economic and policy imperatives*. This report outlined the key challenges faced by young Australians, the implications for Australia's economy, and policy imperatives to lift young people and the nation.

The report highlights an unprecedented shift in how young people have come of age amid intensifying globalisation, a climate emergency, the rise of generative AI, the COVID-19 pandemic and a housing market beyond their grasp. As a result, Australia's young people are not merely young version of ourselves. Instead, they are products of their formative experiences that are impacted by ongoing shifts in how they live, work and play. The greatest mistake is to assume young people today can follow the same playbook to prosperity that previous generations have relied on.

Australia's Youth Agenda sets the foundation for an ongoing series; designed to provide deeper, data-driven perspectives on the big issues faced by young Australians.

A little less conversation, a little more climate action is the second in that series, and focuses on one of the more profound issues facing young people – the impact of climate change. This report estimates the long-term economic costs of climate change on young Australians, and puts forward outcomes that could position Australia as a leader in the global drive to decarbonise, and as a champion for intergenerational prosperity.

For statistical purposes, young Australians are defined as those aged 15 to 34, which, in 2026 is a cohort spanning both Millennial (born 1981 to 1996, turning 30 to 45 in 2026) and Gen Z (born 1997 to 2012, turning 14 to 29 in 2026) generations. Where data captures a smaller age group or cohort, it is called out in the report.

TL;DR summary of this report

- Action on climate today determines the impacts for the next generation, because 50% of emissions linger in the atmosphere within 30 years.[1] Some emissions will only be removed from the atmosphere after many thousands of years.[1] Therefore, global inaction today leaves young Australians facing a warmer, costlier future.
- A Gen Z Australian's lifetime income could be **$165,000 lower by 2070** without further global action.
- If the world transitions to net zero in the next twenty five years, these **costs could be reduced to approximately $95,000** for each Gen Z Australian, an avoided cost of $70,000.
- For young Australians, this makes the case for a new, green growth model, one that emphasises resource productivity, where you get more bang for your buck from the resources we already use. In such a model, Australia has grabbed its green industrial and export opportunities, prioritised a transition to a more sustainable, circular economy and adapt to a changing climate.
- There are three outcomes that need to be achieved in order to realise this future:
    - **Get our emissions to net zero**, which will require a whole-of-economy effort for businesses and individuals to consider the costs of emissions on younger Australians when making decisions.
    - **Future-proof our economy and grow new green and sustainable industries**, in goods such as green iron and critical minerals.
    - **Prepare Australians to deal with the impacts we can't avoid**, which will require greater adaptation investments by Government.

Context: A different measure of progress

Among the suite of challenges facing young Australians, few are more divisive than climate change. The impacts of climate change – and what it costs to slow it down – have been a dominant force in Australian public discourse for as long as many young Australians have been alive.

For young Australians, the impacts of climate change are not an abstract concept but a lived reality with disastrous consequences. Take the 2022 South East Queensland floods, which cost over $6 billion, or ex-Tropical Cyclone Alfred, where children lost a combined 2.3 million days of learning.[2,3] It's no surprise that three-quarters (76%) of young Australians are concerned about the impacts of climate change, and 67% suffer from climate anxiety.[4]

Young Australians' experience of climate change shapes how they think about progress. 'Growth at all costs' isn't the aim (how could it be, when the majority of young Australians have experienced the very real costs of climate disasters?). Instead, it's about a more nuanced measure of progress – one that looks beyond output to who benefits, how sustainable it is, and whether it leaves people and the planet better off.

This is not to say previous generations didn't care, or to comment on a difference in values (of course they did, and Australia has made progress in recent decades), but to recognise that the urgency for action will be felt more acutely by the generation most likely to be impacted by it.

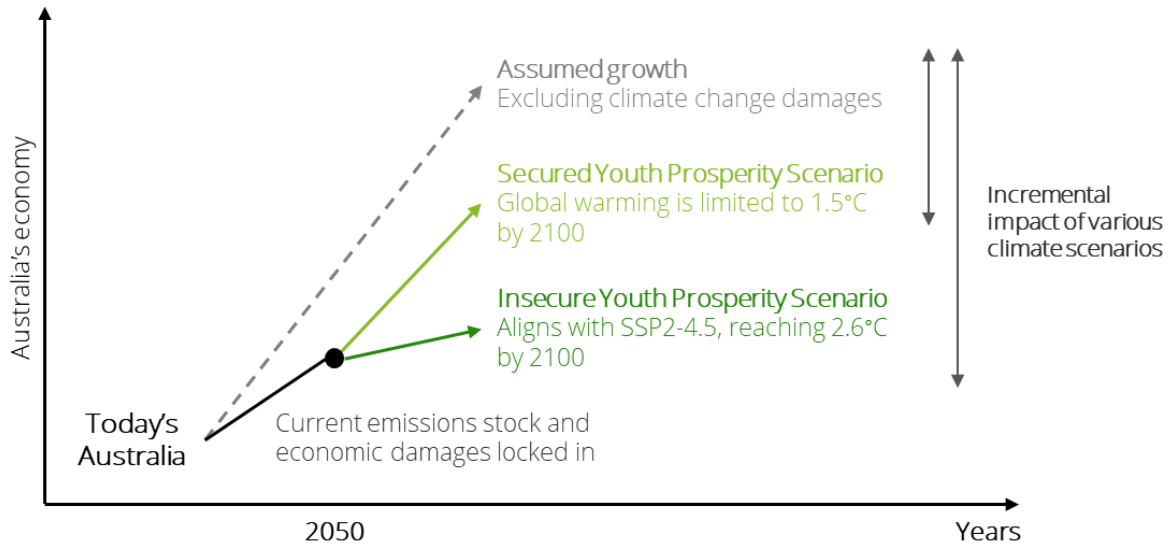
To understand the economic implications of adopting climate change for young Australians, Deloitte Access Economics conducted a scenario analysis using its in-house integrated assessment model, D.Climate. An overview of the D.Climate model used in this analysis can be found in Appendix A.

This analysis provides an estimated impact of climate damages to Australians of different generations to 2070 under two potential futures: [i]

- The '**Insecure Youth Prosperity**' scenario, where warming continues based on current policies and
- The **'Secured Youth Prosperity'** scenario, where the world transitions to Net Zero by 2050, supporting lower global average temperatures and damages, particularly after 2050.

These scenarios are compared to a climate-agnostic economic baseline, to determine the incremental impacts of different climate change scenarios on the economy post 2050 (Figure 1).

Figure 1: Scenario analysis modelling framework



Notes: Diagram is for illustrative purposes and not drawn to scale
Source: Deloitte Access Economics

[i] The modelling was run until 2070, to align with the end of the CSIRO mid-range climate forecast estimates.

Box A: Interpreting our modelling results

This scenario analysis estimates the impact of emissions reduction by imposing emissions constraints on the global economy that reflect current policies ('Insecure') and a net zero-aligned policy suite ('Secure').

These scenarios do not model specific policies or their costs. The costs of emissions reduction are captured through the emissions constraint, with the economy incurring gradually higher costs to restructure so that it meets gradually tighter constraints.

The policies and investment opportunities described in the final section represent opportunities to progress Australia's contribution to a global net zero economy, but are not explicitly included in the modelling, and will not achieve the 'Secure' scenario unless they are matched by a global push to net zero. If actual emissions reduction occurs at a different time or rate to the emissions reduction modelled, costs and benefits will be different from what is presented in this Report.

What Australia's climate trajectories mean for young Australians

The impact of varying climate change scenarios will have varying impact on each generation. All generations will experience the rising costs of climate change to 2050, as the emissions impact of past policies are 'locked in'. The decisions that we make today will nonetheless, have a big impact, particularly in determining the magnitude of costs that younger generations incur. Continuing with our current policy settings (Insecure Youth Prosperity Scenario) will see emissions and temperatures continue to rise, lowering Australia's 'baseline' economic trajectory. Previous work by Deloitte Access Economics has estimated that not acting on climate change could cost our economy $3.4 trillion by 2070.[ii, 5] The cost of a lower economic trajectory will be felt most acutely by today's young people as they have to live with the consequences for the longest.

Climate change is a global problem, but global problems need individual leaders if they are to be solved. Few places have the wealth and resources to lead like Australia. And action taken today by Australia can send a credibility signal to our neighbours and Pacific countries to take action themselves. Such action taken by Australia and others is crucial to limiting global increases in temperatures, reducing the severity and frequency of extreme weather events that we have to grapple with in the future. This has broader impacts, including on:

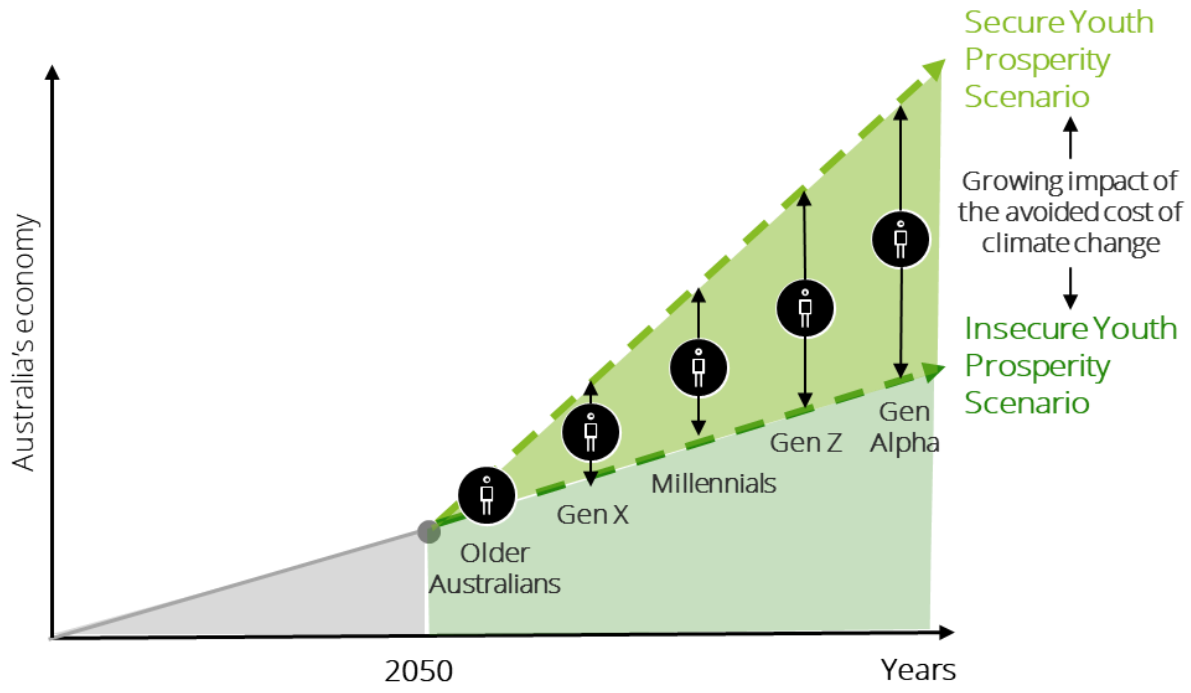
- how Australian workers work, with reduced health and safety risks on workers and their ability to perform tasks due to the impact of heat stress. This could have benefits for labour productivity,[6]
- what is built in Australia and how it is damaged, resulting in less reallocation of investment going into repairing what is damaged but instead into investment that supports growth,[7,8]
- where Australians live and work, with sea levels rising not as quickly compared to the climate damaged baseline.[9] This lowers the loss of productive land, resulting in less commercial and residential properties incurring significant capital costs to repair damage. This could contribute to alleviating constraints in the housing market,
- how Australians live, as there is a lower chance of health-related risks from extreme weather events such as bushfires and vector-borne diseases.[10] This could relieve pressure on the Australian healthcare system,[11]
- how we holiday, particularly the attractiveness of Australia's natural assets and attractions to domestic and international tourists.[12] Tourism is often a pillar of many economies, and improved weather and climate could help regional economies,
- what and how we grow, with lower fluctuations in growing conditions improving agricultural productivity and market uncertainty.[13]

Together, these impacts reduce the costs of climate change, and increases Australia's economic trajectory relative to a scenario where current policies continue.[iii] Such reduction in costs or avoided costs of climate change magnify over time, particularly as temperatures continue to rise in the Insecure Youth Prosperity Scenario (Figure 2). As a result, these benefits will be felt more by younger generations, and will greatly impact their quality of life.

[ii] In net present value terms. The analysis in this report follows this same approach but updates the modelling to reflect the latest available data and methodological refinements. Figures in this report are presented as a cost per person in net present value terms, as opposed to the total cost to Australia's economy.

[iii] While taking climate action (Secured Youth Prosperity Scenario) does increase Australia's economic trajectory relative to a scenario where no climate action occurs and current policies continue (Insecure Youth Prosperity Scenario), this economic trajectory is still relatively lower than the economic baseline (where the impact of climate change is not modelled).

Figure 2: The avoided cost of climate change



Notes: Diagram is for illustrative purposes and not drawn to scale
Source: Deloitte Access Economics

Modelling for this report finds that the economic costs of climate change for Australia fall primarily on today's young people.[iv]

The impacts of climate change under an 'Insecure' baseline constrain young Australians' economic prospects. For the average Millennial and Gen Z Australian, warming consistent with the current temperature trajectory is estimated to create a cost of approximately $130,000 and $165,000 respectively over their lifetime (Chart 1).[v] For Generation Alpha, these costs increase to $185,000 per person.

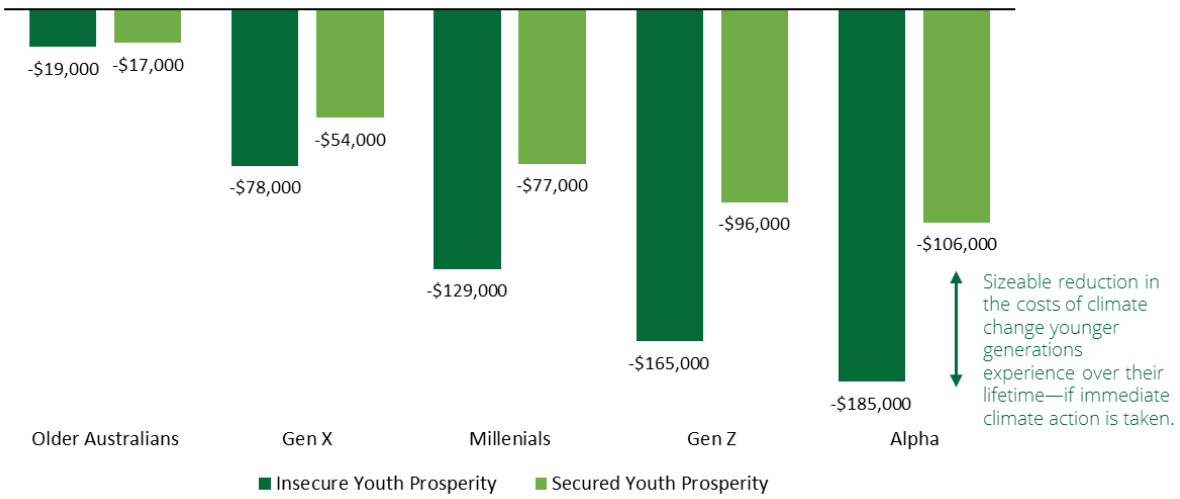
Modelling also shows that while Boomers and Gen X will still experience a decline in economic prosperity, these costs are much lower than those faced by younger generations. The costs to a Gen X Australian are about half of the costs to a Gen Z Australian (about $77,000 over the remainder of their expected lifetime), and the risks to an older Australian are valued at about $20,000 per person.

These lower costs per person are partly a product of the shorter timeframe over which older generations must live with the warmer climate. This approach therefore does not enable the costs of climate change to be compared across generational cohorts across the same life stage. This is not a limitation of the analysis but a reflection of its purpose. The results illustrate how the cumulative impacts of today's policy choices are borne primarily by younger generations, who remain exposed to those impacts over a longer time horizon.

Action today helps all Australians, but particularly younger generations, avoid many of these impacts. Climate change is a global problem, but global problems need individual leaders if they are to be solved. Few places have the wealth and resources to lead like Australia. While a degree of climate burden is already 'locked in' based on historical economic activity, Australian Millennials, Gen Z and Gen Alpha avoid costs of approximately $50,000, $70,000 and $80,000 over the course of their lifetimes if today's decision-makers can drive the climate action needed to reach net zero emissions.

[iv] The share of damages affecting each generation each year is assumed to reflect that generation's share of the population, based on ABS population forecasts.
[v] The lifetime cost per person for each generation is calculated as the NPV of damages from 2025-2070 for each generation at a 2% real discount rate. This NPV is divided by the 2025 population for this generation to derive a per capita lifetime cost. Further information about the discount rate can be found in Appendix A.

Chart 1: Cost of climate damages, GDP per capita for each generation over their assumed lifespan (2025AUD).[vi]



Source: Deloitte Access Economics

Getting to net zero by 2050 is critical for avoiding the costs of climate change, but it won't happen without courageous and decisive leadership today. Australia can be a leader on climate action, and in doing so, encourage global decarbonisation while moving to the forefront of new, green industries ahead of the laggards. This global transition will drive stronger economic growth post 2050 – relative to a world with higher global temperatures – and lessen the long-term costs of climate change for young Australians.

The urgency of the task cannot be overstated. The chance to shape the world after 2050 remains up for grabs.

[vi] These scenarios considered only the economic cost of climate damages and did not model the transition to a net zero economy under the 'Youth Prosperity Secured' scenario. The 'Youth Prosperity Insecure' scenario is aligned with the temperature pathway in SSP2-4.5, where the world reaches 2.6ºC of warming by the end of the century. The 'Youth Prosperity Secured' scenario is aligned with the temperature pathway of the NGFS Net Zero scenario, which assumes global warming is limited to around 1.5ºC above pre-industrial levels by 2100.

Opportunities for green growth for young Australians

For young Australians, the looming risks of climate change make an argument for a new, green, growth model. This model swaps traditional economic assumptions of unlimited (and environmentally costless) natural resource availability for a focus on resource productivity – getting more bang for buck from the resources that we already use – and respect for the natural world; how it can help us, and how it can harm us.

The green growth model Secures Youth Prosperity through ambitious change to help safeguard young people from the economic, social and environmental risks of climate change. In this future, Australia has grabbed its green industrial and export opportunities, actively contributed to global decarbonisation, prioritised a transition to a more sustainable, circular economy, and built its resilience to the consequences of climate change that cannot be avoided.

We've made progress in building such a future: the electricity grid is approximately 40% renewable, the country is (almost) on track to achieve its 2030 emissions reduction target,[14] and a new National Climate Risk Assessment has provided a rigorous evidence base to underpin $9 billion in adaptation investment by 2030.

But more work is needed. By definition, we can't Secure Youth Prosperity if policy and investment behaviour continues in train with the status quo. There are three markers of success for the public and private sector to pursue which will characterise Australia's shift to a green growth model for its young people:

Get our emissions to net zero…

The clearest marker of a sustainable economic model is growth amidst emissions reduction. To protect young people from the worst costs of climate change, Australia (and the world) must reduce its emissions. A growth model cannot be sustainable if it is not emissions-reducing.

While Australia's emissions are falling, Australia seems unlikely to reach its net zero by 2050 target under current policies alone.[15] Governments and industry alike recognise that there is more to do for Australia to meet this metric for green growth.

This would require a whole-of-economy effort, with individuals and businesses needing to consider the costs of emissions on young people in making decisions – in essence, giving them a seat at the decision-makers' table.

In an economist's ideal world, we'd bridge this gap with a broad-based carbon price.[16] This would send a market signal for business to price the costs of emissions for young people into their business decisions, driving efficient decarbonisation that reflected the social cost of emissions.

Such a policy also opens the door for broader tax reform that could have a measurable impact on young Australians' future prosperity. The revenue raised by the carbon tax strengthens the Government's fiscal capacity to fund services critical for Australians young and old alike, like health, education and environmental protection. It also opens the door to income tax cuts, an opportunity to improve fairness for younger workers,[17] while driving productivity growth.[18] Such a reform would rebalance the tax base away from taxing good things (like work) towards taxing bad things (like emissions).

Despite the notional benefits, strengthening carbon pricing is unpopular because it means the prices of certain products are higher in the short-term. Australia has seen this firsthand. A carbon price implemented from 2012-2014 saw emissions fall about 7% across covered companies,[19] but a 10% increase in household electricity prices attributed to the price drove its repeal in 2014.[20]

In the future, short-term costs resulting from carbon pricing should be considered against likely future costs of climate change to be borne by Australia's youth. Even if a broad-based carbon price is too much for now, there are steps that Australia could take to get its emissions to net zero. For example, Australia could strengthen the coverage of the Safeguard Mechanism,[21] to accelerate the pace of decarbonisation in these sectors through a market-based mechanism.

These steps are not a replacement for an economy-wide carbon price, which remains the gold standard for least-cost decarbonisation. But Australia's young people can't let the good be the enemy of the perfect. Adapting to and working within the policy constraints of today will be instrumental in shaping the post-carbon future of tomorrow.

… while growing a new industrial base of sustainable industry …

Emissions reduction can help to avoid climate damages, but it needs to be complemented by a productive economy to truly drive youth prosperity.

This means an Australian economy that gets more done for fewer emissions.

We can achieve this by growing 'sunrise' industries that will be in demand in a net zero world, and embedding circularity so that goods can go further for longer.

Australia's existing strengths – resource abundance, skills, trade infrastructure and relationships – gives young people a strong foundation for prosperity founded on new industries like green iron, critical minerals and ammonia. The growth of these green industries is dependent on the long-term commerciality and operations of many green projects and operations.

Similarly, embedding circularity in Australia's production processes can reduce waste and extend the life of existing materials. The Productivity Commission has indicated that this can lead to improved outcomes for intergenerational equity.[22] Promoting circularity can encourage sustainable industry growth (for example, in secondary steel manufacturing), and ensure that Australia's existing strengths (for example, the estimated 240 mines expected to reach the end of their productive life by 2040) have the lightest footprint possible on their natural environment.[23]

Development of these more 'resource-productive' industries can be encouraged by policy, but must be driven by capital – for example, the $4 trillion worth of Australian superannuation assets. Super funds can drive climate action through how they invest, the products they offer, and the influence they exert as major shareholders shaping capital across the economy, but their ability to do so is shaped by a policy environment that properly prices the social costs of emissions and creates a level playing field for emerging green industries.

… And preparing Australians to deal with the impacts we can't avoid.

A green growth model also needs to acknowledge and respect the climate damages that can't be avoided. Even with a transition to net zero emissions, young Australians face 'baked in' damages that must be managed, not prevented.

But while we cannot prevent this climate change, that doesn't mean that we can't do something about how costly it might be. Adaptation policies and investments – those that prepare Australians to deal with climate impacts, and make them less costly – will be a key mark of success in attempts to deliver youth prosperity.

Adaptation investments can cover everything from infrastructure resilience, to community preparedness, to financial and insurance products, but fundamentally, it means investment before a climate impact, that decreases the damage associated with that impact. For young people, this means improvements to education, health and employment prospects.[24]

The evidence suggests that it pays dividends. The CSIRO cites evidence of ROIs on resilient infrastructure ranging from 3:1 to 12:1.[25] The Insurance Council reckons a dollar spent on resilience saves $9.60 in future damages.[26] Deloitte's research suggests Australia can avoid $120 billion in economic costs from climate change by 2050 with appropriate investment in adaptation.[27]

Why, then, do we only spend 3% of natural disaster relief on adaptation, and 97% on recovery?[28]

Like so many climate challenges, adaptation requires Australia to pay now, and benefit later. It takes courage and willingness to accept short-term costs for a better future for young Australians. With a change in mindset that looks over a longer horizon, Australia can strengthen its adaptation posture, so that young Australians are better equipped to weather the impacts of a changing climate.

Young Australians need action today for a prosperous post-carbon future

The risks of climate change for young people are clear: a $165,000 bill for each Gen Z if we continue on the status quo path. For policymakers and investors operating on 10, 20, even 30-year timeframes, it's tempting to focus on the problems that bear fruit today, and to look to our past for inspiration on what can help young people in the future.

But emissions live longer than policies or investments. What we do today will be critical for whether young people can decarbonise the economy and thrive while they do it, while weathering the climate impacts that are already locked in. It's not easy – successful climate action doesn't show up overnight – but it is necessary, and it's necessary now. Our future – the future of young Australians – depends on it.

Appendix A: Modelling detail

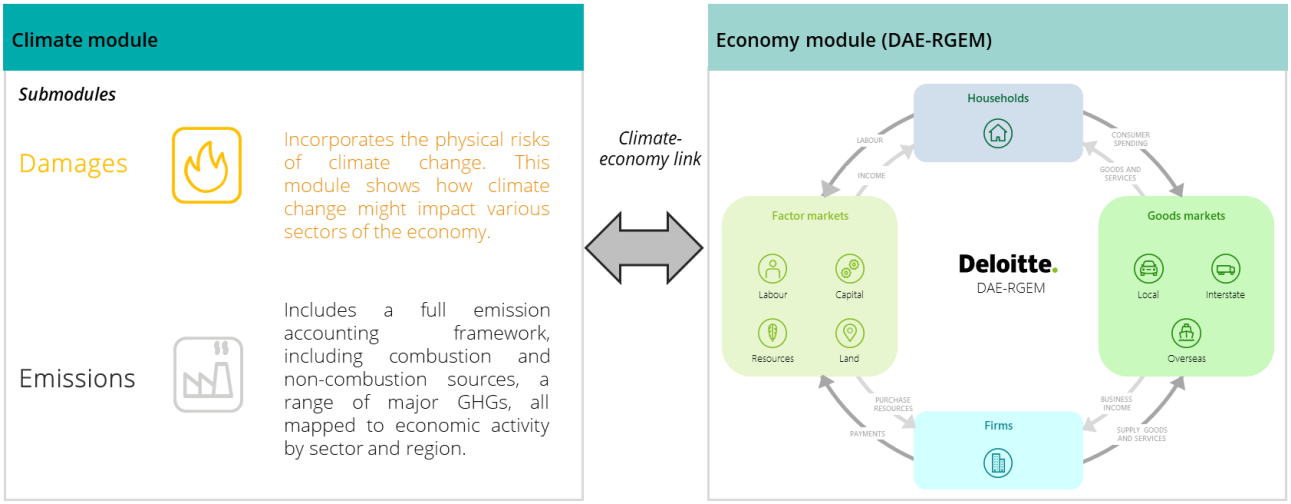
The impact of various global temperature and emissions pathways have been estimated by Deloitte Access Economics using D.Climate; Deloitte Access Economics' in-house climate-integrated computable general equilibrium (CGE) and integrated assessment model (IAM). The model has been reviewed by academic experts and extensively applied across Australian governments and industry.

D.Climate builds upon Deloitte Access Economics' DAE-RGEM model by combining emissions and abatement with an economic module to represent the implications of the latest climate science and climate policy on economic activity.[vii] In doing so, this model can capture the regional, national and global picture of climate change policy, accounting for global trends in emissions reduction, technological development and changes in public policy to reflect the physical and transitional costs associated with different abatement pathways.

Results from D.Climate provide a 'top down' order-of-magnitude estimate of the impact of climate change on economic outcomes such as GDP, employment, and industry value added at the industry and regional level. This analysis was performed at the Australia-wide level and did not include a specific industry analysis.

These outputs can be used to provide insights into what the economy may lose—or gain—from different decarbonisation trajectories. Figure 3 gives a stylised representation of DAE-RGEM, specifically a system of interconnected markets with appropriate specifications of demand, supply and the market clearing conditions determine the equilibrium prices and quantity produced, consumed and traded.

Figure 3 Stylised representation of D.Climate



Source: Deloitte Access Economics.

Utilising CGE is a best-practice methodology for measuring the potential economic impacts of changes in any one part of the economy. In this analysis, the economy is responding to changes in global temperature that are associated with specific emissions pathways. As agents in the economy (households, workers, organisations and government) respond to these changes. These responses reverberate across the economy, affecting factors such as price levels, the labour market, productivity, output, investment, and depreciation.

The model rests on the following key assumptions:

- All markets are competitive and all agents are price takers.
- All markets clear, regardless of the size of the shock, within the year.
- It takes one year to build the capital stock from investment and investors take future prices to be the same as present ones as they cannot see the future perfectly.

[vii] The model also includes an economic damages module, which is used when considering alternative possible global emissions pathways.

- Supply of land and skills are exogenous. In the business as usual case, supply of natural resource adjusts to keep its price unchanged; productivity of land adjusts to keep the land rental constant at the base year level.
- All factors sluggishly move across sectors. Land moves within agricultural sectors; natural resource is specific to the resource using sector. Labour and capital move imperfectly across sectors in response to the differences in factor returns. Inter-sectoral factor movement is controlled by overall return maximizing behaviour subject to a Constant-Elasticity-of-Transformation function. By raising the size of the elasticity of transformation to a large number we can mimic the perfect mobility of a factor across sectors and by setting the number close to zero we can make the factor sector specific. This formulation allows the model to acknowledge the sector specificity of part of the capital stock used by each sector and the sector specific skills acquired by labour while remaining in the industry for a long time. Any movement of such labour to another sector will mean a reduction in the efficiency of labour as a part of the skills embodied will not be used in the new industry of employment.

This analysis

This analysis included three scenarios that were modelled in D.Climate:

- An assumed growth baseline: This scenario reflects a set of economic projections that do not account for the impact of climate change on the Australian economy. This is the baseline outlook which climate change scenarios are measured against to estimate their economic impact.
- An "Insecure Youth Prosperity" Scenario: This scenario reflects current policies of major economies, which gradually lower emissions. This pathway leads to an increase of approximately 2.6°C above pre-industrial levels by 2100.
- A "Secure Youth Prosperity" Scenario: This scenario reflects coordinated global action to limit warming of global temperatures. This limits warming to ~ 1.4°C above pre-industrial levels by 2100.

These scenarios include the impacts of climate damages only and do not include the costs and benefits the economic transition and decarbonisation.

While D.Climate can be tailored to reflect individual states, territories and industries, all modelling for this analysis was conducted at a country-wide level for Australia. Presented results do not sub-national regions or industries.

Valuing the future

It is inherently difficult to 'discount' the future, particularly concerning an issue as socially and economically complex as global climate change.

A discount rate of 2% has been used by Deloitte Access Economics in this analysis, after considering the differing perspectives within literature, the economic framework adopted for analysis in D.Climate and broader policy actions modelled. This rate reflects a consistent view social discounting in climate change economic analysis. For example, the results of a survey of economists in the American Economic Journal: Economic Policy (the sample contains over 200 academics who are defined as experts on social discounting by virtue of their publications) indicates that most favour a low discount rate: with more than three-quarters comfortable with a median discount rate of 2%.[29] More recently, Bauer and Rudebusch (2023) have analysed trends in interest rates in the bond market to posit that lower interest rates since 1990's also provide a rationale to utilise lower a social discount rate in climate policy analysis.[30]

Endnotes

[1] IPCC, Fourth Assessment Report, Working Group I. Chapter 7. <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar4/syr/>
[2] Deloitte Access Economics, *The social, financial and economic costs of the 2022 South East Queensland Rainfall and Flooding Event* (2022). < https://www.qra.qld.gov.au/sites/default/files/2022-07/dae_report_-_south_east_queensland_rainfall_and_flooding_event_-_8_june_2022.pdf>
[3] Climate Council, *Eye of the Storm: How climate pollution fuels more intense and destructive cyclones* (2025). < https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/Eye-of-the-Storm_Climate-Council-Report.pdf>
[4] Orygen, *Climate of Distress: Youth Mental Health and Climate Change* (18 August 2023). < https://www.orygen.org.au/About/News-And-Events/2023/New-research-shows-the-scale-of-climate-distress-a>
[5] Deloitte Access Economics (2020). A new choice: Australia's climate for growth. <https://www.deloitte.com/au/en/services/economics/perspectives/new-choice-climate-growth.html>
[6] Kjellstrom, T., et al., (2018). 'Estimating population heat exposure and impacts on working people in conjunction with climate chante'. *International Journal of Biometeorology.* 62(3).
[7] NGFS., (2024). *Climate change, the macroeconomy and monetary policy*. (October 2024). < https://www.ngfs.net/system/files/import/ngfs/medias/documents/ngfs_climate_change_macroeconomy_and_monetary_policy_-_final.pdf>
[8] Climate Council. *Compound Costs: How Climate Change is Damaging Australia's Economy*. (2019). < https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Costs-of-climate-change-report.pdf>
[9] Depsky, N., et al., (2022). 'DSCIM-Coastal v1.0: An Open-Source Modeling Platform for Global Impacts of Sea Level Rise'. *Geoscientific Model Development.* 16(14).
[10] Roson, R., and Sartori, M., (2015). 'Estimation of climate change damage functions for 140 regions in the GTAP9 database'. *Journal of Global Economic Analysis* 1(2).
[11] Johnston, F.H., et al., (2020). 'Unprecedented smoke-related health burden associated with the 2019-20 bushfires in eastern Australia'. *Medical Journal of Australia.* 213 (6).
[12] Roson, R., and Sartori, M., (2015). 'Estimation of climate change damage functions for 140 regions in the GTAP9 database'. *Journal of Global Economic Analysis* 1(2).
[13] Oritz-Bobea., A., et al., (2021). 'Antropogenic climate change has slowed global productivity growth'. *Nature Climate Change.* 11.
[14] DCCEEW, (2025). Australia's emissions projections 2024. <https://www.dcceew.gov.au/climate-change/publications/australias-emissions-projections-2024>
[15] DCCEEW (2025). Australia's National Greenhouse Accounts. <https://www.greenhouseaccounts.climatechange.gov.au/>
[16] ESA, (2021). Australia's top economists back carbon price, say benefits of net-zero outweigh costs. <https://esacentral.org.au/news/44964/australias-top-economists-back-carbon-price-say-benefits-of-net-zero-outweigh-cost/>
[17] AFR (2026). Fix 'cruel' taxes for young workers, Kelty tells Labor. <https://www.afr.com/wealth/tax/fix-cruel-taxes-for-young-workers-kelty-tells-labor-20251119-p5ngr7>
[18] Deloitte Access Economics (2025). Deloitte Access Economics Budget Monitor. <https://www.deloitte.com/au/en/about/press-room/budget-monitor.html>
[19] The Guardian (2014). Carbon taxed companies cut emissions by 7% in past year, investor group says. <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/mar/07/carbon-taxed-companies-cut-emissions-by-7-in-past-year-investor-group-says>
[20] Office of Impact Analysis (2013). Regulation Impact Statement – Option Stage: Repeal the Carbon Tax. <https://oia.pmc.gov.au/sites/default/files/posts/2013/10/RIS-option-stage.pdf>
[21] Grattan Institute (2025). Bills down, emissions down: A practical path to net-zero electricity. <https://grattan.edu.au/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/Bills-down-emissions-down-A-practical-path-to-net-zero-electricity-Grattan-2025.pdf>
[22] Productivity Commission, (2026). Australia's circular economy: unlocking the opportunities. <https://assets.pc.gov.au/2025-10/circular-economy.pdf?VersionId=kzNYni.c_7M8UjMSOx3bhMmrRnJ.fWXa>
[23] Ibid.

24 Deloitte and UNICEF Australia, (2025). The economic and social impact of disasters on children and young people. <https://assets-us-01.kc-usercontent.com/99f113b4-e5f7-00d2-23c0-c83ca2e4cfa2/ad507f41-77a4-4ede-899d-5940d5ffae71/D_UNICEF_Report_06.pdf>
25 CSIRO, (2022). 'The benefits of proactively planning for infrastructure resilience'. <https://www.csiro.au/en/news/all/articles/2022/october/counting-the-cost-of-infrastructure-resilience>.
26 Finity, *Reaping the rewards of resilience* (2022). <https://insurancecouncil.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/R_ICA_Resilience_Final_220218.pdf>.
27 Deloitte Access Economics, *Economic reality check, Adapting Australia for climate-resilient growth* (2022). <https://www.deloitte.com/au/en/services/economics/perspectives/economic-reality-check.html>.
28 Ibid.
29 Drupp, M.; Freeman, M.; Groom, B.; and Nesje. F. (2018), Discounting Disentangled, American Economic Journal: Economic Policy, 10 (4): 109-34
30 Bauer, M and Rudebusch, G 2023, 'The Rising Cost of Climate Change: Evidence from the Bond Market', The Review of Economics and Statistics, 2023: 1255–1270.

Primary authors

Rhiannon Yetsenga

Associate Director

Deloitte Access Economics

ryetsenga@deloitte.com.au

Chern Han Mah

Manager

Deloitte Access Economics

Rhiain Powell

Senior Consultant

Deloitte Access Economics

Will Neumann

Senior Consultant

Deloitte Access Economics

With thanks to

Pradeep Phillip, David Rumbens, Matt Judkins, Claire Ibrahim, Andrew Boal, Anthony Saliba, Vonnie Herbert

Limitation of our work

General use restriction

This report is a thought leadership paper produced by Deloitte. This report is not intended to and should not be used or relied upon by anyone else and we accept no duty of care to any other person or entity. The report has been prepared for the purpose of outlining issues impacting young people in Australia. You should not refer to or use our name or the advice for any other purpose.