



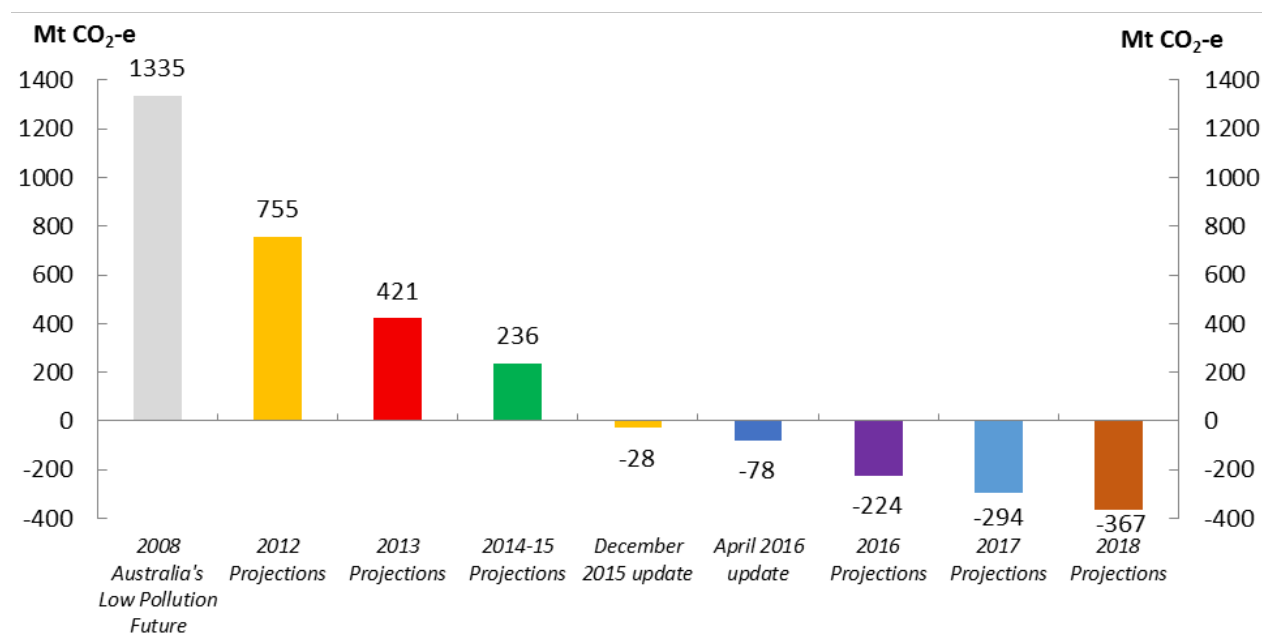
# Tracking to Australia's emissions reduction targets

Australia continues to make good progress in reducing emissions. The latest official projections show improvements in how Australia is tracking against its 2020 and 2030 emissions reduction commitments.

## Australia's 2020 target

Australia's 2018 emissions projections estimate Australia will overachieve on its 2020 emissions reduction target by 367 million tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e)<sup>1</sup>. This result is an improvement of 73 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e since the previous estimate in 2017, and an improvement of more than 1700 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e since the estimate reported in 2008 in the *Australia's Low Pollution Future* report.

Figure 1 Change in the cumulative emissions reduction task over time, 2020 target

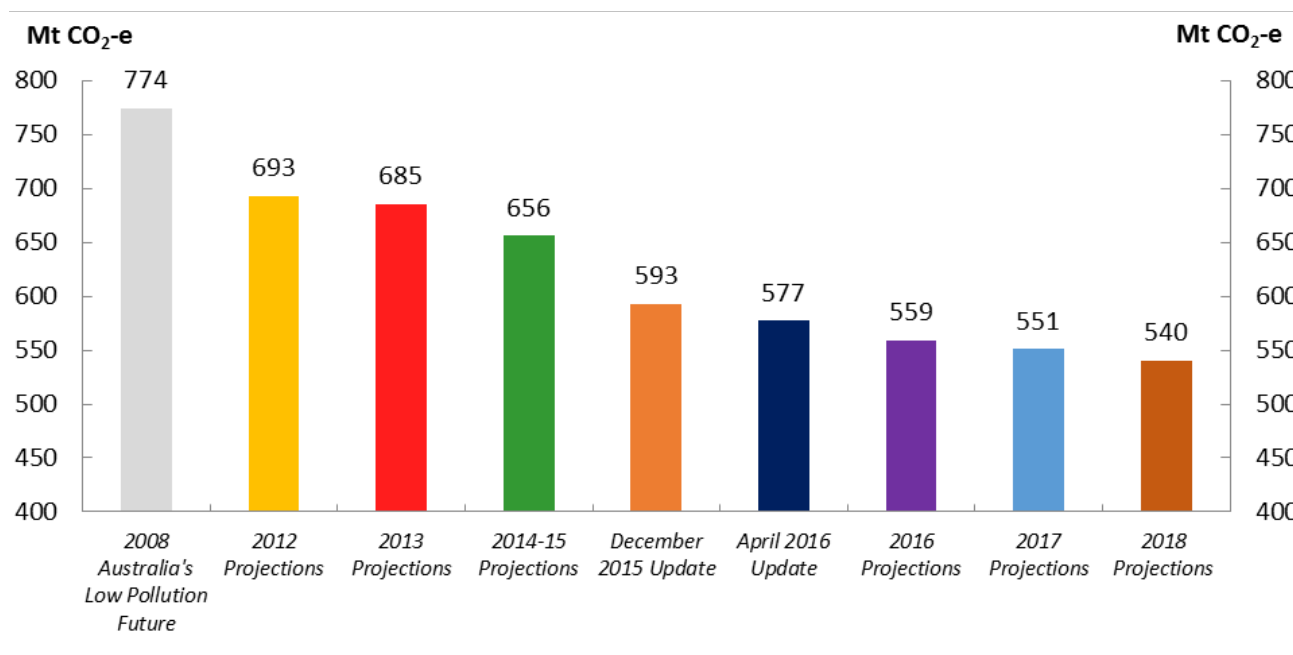


The changes since the previous estimate reflect lower than previously projected emissions growth across the economy, particularly due to:

- higher projected carbon sequestration in regrowing forests; and
- lower projected emissions from electricity and agriculture.

Australia's projected emissions in 2020 continue to fall. In 2020 Australia's emissions are projected to be 540 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e, a downward revision of 11 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e since the 2017 projections and a reduction of more than 230 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e since the projection of 774 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e in 2008 (Figure 2).

**Figure 2 Projected emissions in 2020 continue to fall**



## Australia's 2030 target

Taking into account Australia's over achievement during the first and second commitment periods of the Kyoto Protocol Australia's abatement task to a 26 per cent target is reduced to 328 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e.

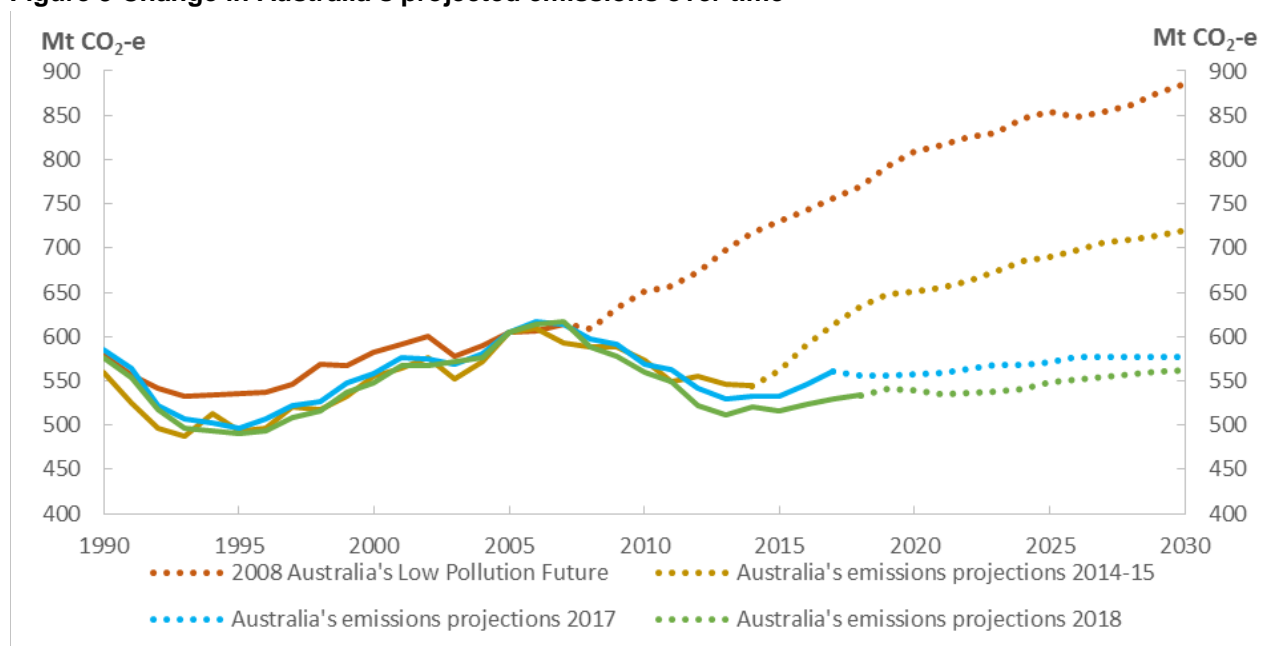
Before taking into account the carryover from the first and second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, the difference between the projection and target trajectory is 695 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e. This is an improvement of 173 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e since the 2017 projections and almost 3 billion tonnes since the 2008 estimate of the emissions reduction task.

Australia's 2030 emissions reduction target is 26 to 28 per cent below 2005 levels. This target is responsible and ambitious. On a per person basis, it is a halving of emissions—one of the strongest targets in the G20.

Australia's emissions in 2030 are projected to be 563 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e, a downward revision of 8 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e since the 2017 projections and a reduction of just over 160 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e since the 2014–15 projections.

As shown in Figure 3, Australia's projected emissions profile continues to improve over time.

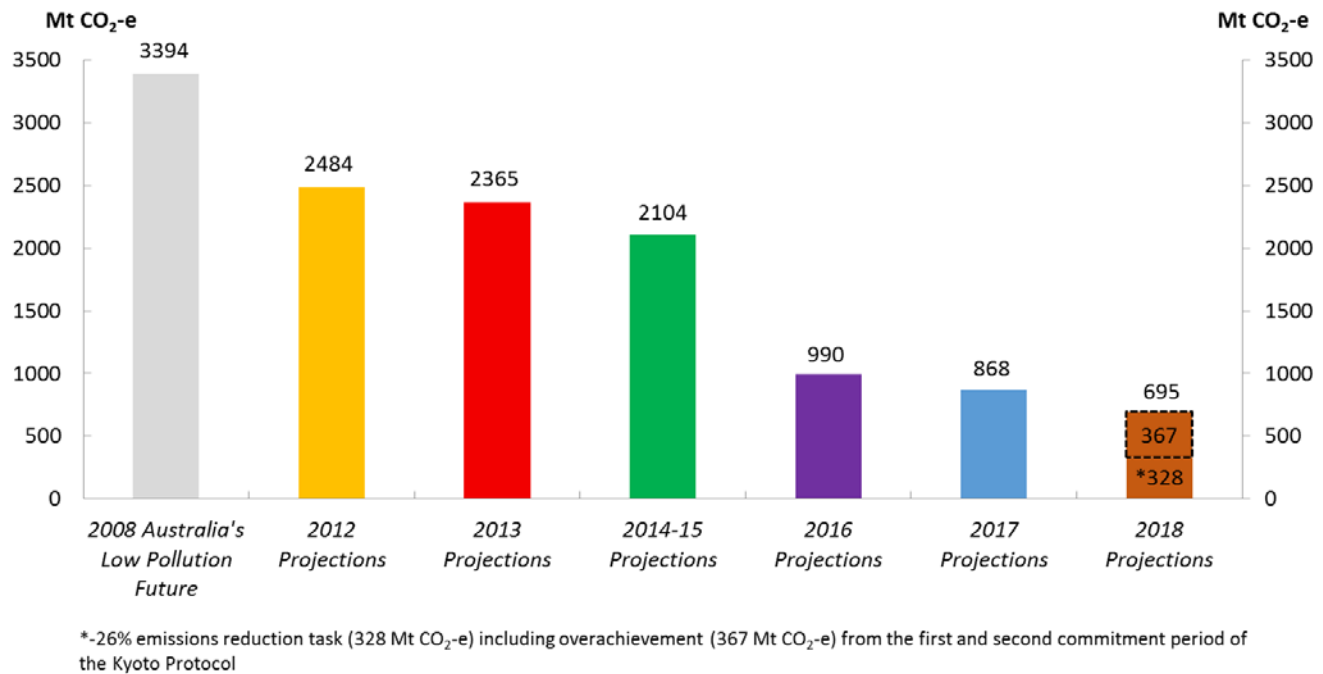
**Figure 3 Change in Australia's projected emissions over time**



Australia has committed to measuring progress towards its 2030 target using an emissions budget over the period 2021 to 2030.

As shown in Figure 4, the emissions reduction required to meet the 2030 target continues to improve over time.

**Figure 4 Change in the cumulative emissions reduction task over time, 2030 target (26 per cent below 2005 levels)<sup>2</sup>**



The improvement is due to:

- lower electricity demand and increased renewable builds
- higher projected carbon sequestration in regrowing forests due to improved methodology for estimating carbon sinks in forestry
- lower agriculture production due to the drought and weaker mid-term agriculture growth rates

## Endnotes

1. This is inclusive of carryover 128 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e from the Kyoto Protocol first commitment period.
2. For a target of 26 per cent below 2005 levels.

Note: Figures in the charts are not directly comparable because of the underlying assumptions, accounting system and policy measures differ between each publication.

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