

Australian Conservation Foundation

Submission to: 2026-27 Pre-Budget Submission

Addressed to: Australian Government Treasury

Submission from: Australian Conservation Foundation
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**Nature
needs us,
now**



About the Australian Conservation Foundation

The Australian Conservation Foundation is Australia's national environment organisation. Since 1965, we've protected the nature we all love – our unique wildlife and our beautiful beaches and bush.

Driven by the power of people, we won World Heritage listing for the Great Barrier Reef and Kakadu National Park, and returned precious water to the rivers of the Murray-Darling.

We influence governments and businesses to protect the animals, rivers and reefs close to our hearts and hold decision-makers to account without fear or favour. Everything we do is evidence-based and helps nature and people thrive for generations to come.

We won't give up until Australia's nature is protected and regenerated.

The Australian Conservation Foundation acknowledges that First Nations Peoples of Australia hold unique knowledge and rights inherited from their ancestors and Country and have cared for this country since time immemorial. We pay our respect to First Nations Peoples of Australia, past, present and future. We respect their leadership in caring for Country and support their rights to continue to do so. We recognise that sovereignty was never ceded, and that colonisation was unjust, often violent and continues to adversely impact on First Nations Peoples today. As Australia's national environment organisation, we understand we have a responsibility to help right this historical wrong. We support their authority to speak for Country, right to self-determination and recognise that rightful recognition of and genuine reconciliation with First Nations Peoples is fundamental to protecting nature in Australia. We support First Nations-led campaigns that protect Country and seek win-win outcomes for our environment and for the rights, wellbeing and advancement of First Nations Peoples.

To find out more about the Australian Conservation Foundation's work visit www.acf.org.au



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Introduction

Australia's natural world is in crisis. Unchecked pollution, habitat destruction and climate change are pushing our landscapes, wildlife and communities to the brink. Australia's parliament must act now to protect nature, cut pollution and embrace renewable energy. This submission calls for decisive investment to stop and reverse the decline of nature upon which roughly half Australia's GDP has a moderate to very high direct dependence on nature, while the other half is indirectly dependent.

In recent federal budgets, ACF has been increasingly concerned by the Albanese government's continued deprioritisation of climate and environmental expenditure or deployment of committed funding. Climate and environmental spending remains a small fraction of total Commonwealth expenditure, and in 2026-2027, we are concerned that several climate and environment allocations expire or have been reprioritised, partially because of limited deployment of funding for existing measures. In MYEFO 2025-2026, over \$350 million of funding allocated to the environment, climate and water portfolio was reallocated largely from uncontracted funding under previously announced commitments (Appendix A). Funding originally allocated for Nature Positive reforms in 2023-2024 has been taken up or reallocated, so new funding to support the November 2025 Environment Protection Reforms is critical.

Across portfolios nature and climate expenditure remains insufficient

Early in the Albanese government's first time, ACF was pleased by the government's momentum on reinvesting in both government capacity and specific programs relating to environmental and climate issues. However, from Budget 2024-2025 onwards, this momentum has faltered and expenditure on nature protection remains critically insufficient.

In Budget 2025-2026 and MYEFO 2025-2026, spending on climate and energy has declined over the forward estimates as major commitments made in 2024 are deployed or expire. In Budget 2025-2026, government committed only \$6.9 billion of additional spending across climate mitigation, climate adaptation/disaster recovery and clean energy deployment, significantly lower than Budget 2024-2025. Similarly, overall expenditure on nature conservation has continued to decline and Budget 2025-2026 contained limited new investment in environmental outcomes. Key programs essential to meeting Australia's international nature commitments are underfunded (Australian Bushland Program) or will soon terminate (Saving Native Species program).

In Budget 2024-2025, ACF calculated that spending on the climate and environment sub-functions across the forward estimates was far lower than most Commonwealth expenses representing less than 1 cent for every Commonwealth dollar, spending on the fossil fuel tax credit was 68% higher (at 1.41 cents per dollar). As we approach the May 2026 budget, ACF urges the federal government to deepen its commitment to addressing the dual crises of climate change and biodiversity loss by significantly increasing investment in nature and climate, as set



out further below.

The Commonwealth's Economic and Fiscal Strategy should prioritise identifying and phasing out subsidies that are harmful to climate and nature

The Albanese government's current Economic and Fiscal Strategy does not contain any commitment to identify and phase out subsidies that are harmful to climate or nature.¹ This is a missed opportunity to contribute to budget balance and environmental sustainability.

As examined by the Biodiversity Council, government subsidies and expenditure allocation can result in negative environmental or climate externalities, either by subsidising activities that are harmful to nature and climate or by underpricing the use of resources.² Australia is obligated, pursuant to the *Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework* and the *Paris Agreement (COP29 Agreement)*, to identify and eliminate subsidies that are harmful to nature and that amount to fossil fuel subsidization, respectively.

ACF emphasises that the identification and elimination of such subsidisation not only benefits Australia's nature and climate but also contributes to reducing government spending and the structural deficit in the budget. Savings from the elimination of harmful subsidies can also be invested in positive actions to improve biodiversity and strengthen climate action.

Enhanced budget reporting and transparency

ACF recommends structural changes in Commonwealth financial reporting of climate and environment related spending, measures and investment in Budget 2026-2027, in recognition of their significance to the national economy. Financial reporting on climate and environment spending has grown more complex in recent years, due to the lack of transparent accounting for offsets on new climate and environment initiatives. Improved clarity in Commonwealth reporting on climate and environmental expenditures would be highly beneficial for monitoring progress and ensuring accountability.

ACF recommends several changes in reporting of planned renewable energy spending to enhance transparency. The Commonwealth has reported its planned spend on the "Renewable Energy" component in Statement 6 of Budget Paper 1 in every Budget (and MYEFO) since 2016 (see Table 6.12.1, Budget Paper 1). But it does not report the same information in the Final Budget Outcome (FBO), or in the Summary Appendix A (see Table 6A.1, Budget paper 1). In the FBO, Commonwealth spending on "Renewable Energy" is simply aggregated with the much broader "Fuel and Energy" function, which includes the much larger spending on the diesel fuel rebate. ACF recommends a simple change to improve budget reporting: report spending on "Renewable Energy" as a separate component of the Fuel and Energy Function – starting with this year. Another change that would assist public understanding of environment spending would be to publish in Budget Paper 1 Statement 6, the components which make up the Environment protection sub-function and the National Estate and Parks Sub-Function.

¹ Commonwealth of Australia, *Budget 2025-2026: Mid-Year Economic and Fiscal Outlook 2025-2026* (December 2025), 52.

² Biodiversity Council, *Identifying and assessing subsidies harmful to biodiversity in Australia* (October 2024).





Stop bulldozing the bush

Environment protection reforms need to be supported with secure, long-term funding

With passage of the Environment Protection reforms package in November 2025, we enter a critical implementation phase for a re-set *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (Cth) (EPBC Act). New environmental protections and a new National Environmental Protection Authority are the foundation for long overdue improvements to nature protection more efficient assessments and approvals, but will not deliver without adequate funding.

The new National Environment Protection Agency, an election commitment from 2022 and confirmed in 2025, is due to commence in mid-2026 but is not supported by long term funding. \$121 million over four years was allocated in 2023-2024 budget in anticipation of the EPA commencing in 2024 and the first three years of this funding has been taken up or reallocated DCCEEW to support its regulatory functions. This funding needs to be increased and extended to ensure that NEPA has long term funding in place to support its establishment and to fulfil the full range of functions allocated to it under the *Environment Protection Reform Act 2025* (Cth).

NEPA should be funded through a combination of transfer of the funding currently allocated to the Department for the regulatory functions under the EPBC Act and other legislation to be administered by NEPA, \$150 million of additional funding over the next 4 years to cover new and expanded NEPA functions following the *Environment Protection Reform Act 2025*, and cost recovery.

Other funding required to support implementation of the reforms:

- \$100 million over 4 years in additional funding for EPBC reform capacity in the department to support development of new Standards and regulations, and to update listings and conservation planning instruments;
- At least \$80 million over 4 years for compliance support for agricultural sector following reforms to EPBC Act continuing use exemptions in November 2025. The reforms to the exemption have exposed longstanding lack of understanding of EPBC Act obligations by proponents and State governments and this needs to be addressed. These changes need to be explained and supported through a dedicated compliance program which extends to agriculture sector compliance with the EPBC Act generally. This funding should include education and support and strategic enforcement action for the new changes as well as a renewed push to support compliance in the agricultural sector; and
- \$80 million over 4 years to support the continued development of Environment



Information Australia and its functions following the passage of the *Environment Information Australia Act 2025*. An additional \$8 million per year of this funding should be allocated to supporting an initiative such as VMAP (<https://vmap.au/>) a national vegetation mapping and deforestation monitoring platform that would allow supply chains and the finance sector to meet climate and other ESG reporting requirements and support market access for Australian agricultural producers.

Australia's strategy for nature – zero new extinctions commitment and 30 x 30

Funding allocated to support Australia's commitments under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the updated Australia's Strategy for Nature remain inadequate. Without increased funding, Australia will fail to deliver important commitments such as zero new extinctions and the commitment to protect 30% of Australian ecosystems by 2030.

- \$300 million to continue the Saving our Native Species Program. Funding for the Saving our Native Species program (\$225 million over 3.5 years from 2023) finishes this year. Without further funding Australia's commitment to zero new extinctions is at risk; and
- Similarly the \$250 million over 5 years committed to the Australian Bushland Program is inadequate to support Australia's 30x30 commitment. The investment in the program should be increased \$500 million.

Food security and agricultural modernisation

- Increase budget for the national food security strategy to \$10m (from 3m) to allow meaningful consultation with diverse stakeholders including regenerative and organic farmers, remote communities, experts with knowledge of region-specific climate and nature-related risks facing the agricultural sector, and communities experiencing food insecurity; and expand the National Food Council to include community members with lived experience of food insecurity, health and nutrition experts, independent environmental scientists, and First Nations community leaders;
- Divert the equivalent of 3% (\$75m) of national agricultural R&D expenditure to a new First Nations-led agriculture and environment R&D corporation and the development of a First Nations-led native food strategy; and
- Ensure a portion of the \$100m federal government contribution to the National Agricultural Traceability Strategy is used to ensure an updated National Livestock Identification System (NLIS) can be used for ESG reporting including deforestation and conversion-free verification.





Champion renewables, clean energy manufacturing and cut climate pollution

To address the climate crisis, we need to power everything we can with clean energy – primarily wind and solar, backed by clean firming from batteries and hydro. The Climate Change Authority's Annual Progress Report for 2025 found that "Australia's emissions are falling, but not yet fast enough to meet its 2030 or 2035 targets."³ Accelerating the rollout of renewables to 2030 and 2035 and strengthening decarbonisation policies including to accelerate the phaseout of gas and coal, will help Australian transition to a renewable powered future and meet the upper end (70%) of the 2035 climate target committed to by the Albanese government in late 2025.

Expansion of the Capacity Investment Scheme and the establishment of the Cheaper Home Batteries Program are important and welcome steps to accelerate the rollout of renewables in the right places that are good for people and nature. However, further action is needed to firm up the pathway to 82% or higher renewable penetration by 2030, with enough capacity to accelerate the electrification and development of clean energy manufacturing. Australia could generate over \$100 billion per annum and create 400,000 new jobs by 2040 by expanding renewable and green energy export industries. But those industries and large-scale renewables projects must be appropriately located to avoid impacting ecosystems and involve fulsome participation and benefits-sharing opportunities for communities, particularly First Nations.

Accelerate the rollout of renewable energy infrastructure that's good for people and nature

As cost of living pressures persist, ACF calls on the Albanese government to build upon the success of the Cheaper Home Batteries Program and *commit to a \$50 billion household electrification, renewables and thermal efficiency package* to be rolled out over the next decade, with \$5 billion upfront in the 2026-2027 budget to deliver immediate supports to households for electrification and thermal upgrades. ACF further supports any household package specifically targeting supports to private rental priorities, prioritising the poorest quality homes, such as via extending and expanding the Home Energy Upgrades Fund (HEUF).

In order to *support the timely deployment of large-scale renewables*, ACF further urges the government to:

- Allocate \$2 million to the Melbourne Biodiversity Institute to finalise spatial mapping and analysis of biodiversity values and renewable energy potential across all states and territories and undertake a national-scale expert consultation to identify 'irreplaceable

³ Climate Change Authority, *Annual Progress Report 2025* (December 2025), 18.



habitats' for all Matters of National Environmental Significance. This will enable governments and industry to plan for, and accelerate the buildout of, renewable infrastructure in areas with minimal impact on biodiversity;

- Allocate up to \$250 million annually to fund 50 Local Energy Hubs across Australia, to support regional and rural Australians understand and engage with large-scale renewable energy projects and ensure community benefits sharing outcomes. We also recommend investing in a \$15 million strategic national communications campaign on the renewables rollout; and
- Continue to work with relevant State governments to support offshore wind auctions. We welcome the recent announcement that Victoria will commence offshore wind auctions in August 2026.

Finally, we urge government to allocate capacity to review the rules governing private sector investment in the renewables sector. In particular, superannuation funds have been hindered from participating in renewable energy projects and other clean energy manufacturing opportunities because of the unintended consequences of the Your Future, Your Super (YFYS) performance testing regime. Superannuation investment is strongly aligned with the long-term return profile of renewable energy projects, and government should *adjust the YFYS benchmarks to prioritise renewable projects*.⁴

ACF supports the announced commitments to progress the implementation of the Net Zero Plan (MYEFO 2025-2026, Appendix A) and urges the government to continue to develop and invest in further decarbonisation measures that contribute to the achievement of Australia's 2030 and 2035 climate targets.

Ensuring a just transition away from fossil fuels

ACF urges the Albanese government to increase funding for the Net Zero Economic Authority to support regional energy transition plans and physical net zero hubs in key regions, to ensure communities and workers impacted by coal and gas plant closures are able to participate in, and benefit from, the net zero transition. The Authority must be empowered to support workers to transition coal and gas power plant dependent regions to green industries by 2030 and 2035 respectively. We urge the government to expand the Net Zero Economic Authority's mandate to include workers impacted by coal mines and gas facility closures, including by investing \$5 billion over the forward estimates for the Authority to carry out its mandate and maintain a physical presence in regional Australia.

Furthermore, ACF strongly supports the government's commitment to transition Australia's electricity system to a renewable grid. However, workforce shortfalls constitute a major risk. Jobs and Skills Australia has estimated that – on current trends – there will be a shortfall of 32,000 electricians by 2030.⁵ A failure to properly address these workforce shortages will act as a handbrake on the government's ambition to decarbonise the economy. As such, ACF calls on the Albanese government to properly fund and finalise the National Energy Workforce

⁴ See, e.g., IFM Investors, *Super-powering the energy transition: A policy blueprint to facilitate superannuation investment* (November 2023).

⁵ Jobs and Skills Australia, *The Clean Energy Generation* (2023), 165.



Strategy, including:

- Expansion of industry Registered Training Organisations (RTOs') and TAFE campuses, as well as ensuring industry-led apprentice recruitment and mentoring to improve completion rates;
- Provision of wage supplements for trainers and development of Industry Migration Agreements; and
- Investment in public communications campaigns to improve the perception of clean energy jobs.

Supporting the growth of clean energy manufacturing and exports

ACF supports the government's Future Made in Australia agenda, and the budgetary commitments made in Budget 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 to develop Australia's renewable manufacturing and clean energy export capacity. As the Future Made in Australia agenda progresses from announcements to implementation, ACF urges:

- The government prioritise the timely finalisation of enabling regulations for existing Future Made in Australia supports, and to provide clarity that a range of announced measures associated with clean industrial policy are classified as Future Made in Australia supports. The timely finalization of the Future Made in Australia regulatory architecture is essential to accelerating the deployment of the supports already committed to by government;
- Ensure that the government's suite of Special Investment Vehicles (SIVs) operate under harmonised regulations and mandates to maximise the impact and crowding-in effect of public investment. In particular, ACF calls on the government to clarify that the Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility is prohibited from investing in fossil fuels, which would be contrary to Australia's obligations under the *Clean Energy Transition Partnership*; and
- Invest in place-based transition planning and clean energy manufacturing scale-up, prioritising future renewable energy industrial precincts and forms of government support that are future-focused, contributing to projects that are low carbon intensity and that commit to strong community benefits sharing outcomes. In particular, ACF calls on the Albanese government to commit to targeted industry attraction or land activation funding to support Collie, WA's transition from coal to clean energy industries. ACF supports the Australian Manufacturing Workers' Union's *No Closing Gates Without Opening Dates* campaign.





Renewable, not radioactive

Australia's energy future was a key feature of the 2025 federal election with Australians overwhelmingly preferencing political representatives who see our future as renewable, not radioactive. ACF maintains that our nation should be powered by renewable resources, not by dangerous, expensive, and polluting nuclear energy. With an abundance of sun and wind, Australia has all it needs to embrace clean, reliable energy without the risks and delays associated with nuclear power. We welcome federal Parliament's retention of clear prohibitions on nuclear energy in last year's EPBC Act reforms. We urge Australia to stand on the right side of history and uphold Australia's commitment to international law, peace and security by signing the *Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons*. To better reduce radioactive risks ACF calls for uranium mining to be phased out and for radioactive waste to be managed transparently and responsibly, ensuring the protection of, and consent rights for, First Nation people's and communities.

Phaseout uranium mining and responsibly manage radioactive waste

To advance the credible and responsible management of existing radioactive waste and to ensure the ongoing rehabilitation of nuclear sites and former uranium mines, ACF recommends:

- Funding an independent review of the uranium sector's domestic and international impacts and best practice compliance;
- Funding rehabilitation works and monitoring of nuclear sites and former uranium mines, including advancing rehabilitation works at Emu Field (SA) and the former Ranger mine and Koongarra project area in Kakadu, in consultation with Traditional Owners and impacted communities. We call on the government to advance the formal protection of the Jabiluka Mineral Lease via inclusion in the Kakadu National Park World Heritage Area and further urge the government to continue funding efforts to rehabilitate and repair landscapes impacted by former nuclear activities including the current works at the former Maralinga atomic test site and the Rum Jungle uranium mine in the Northern Territory;
- Supporting the secure interim management of low and intermediate level radioactive waste at ANSTO's Lucas Heights facility and enabling independent oversight and guidance and community and First Nation's consent requirements around any plans to develop storage and/or disposal sites for AUKUS-related nuclear waste; and
- Provide no future financial support to Small Modular Reactor or 'new generation' nuclear technology.





Stop the climate wreckers: phaseout government support for big coal and gas polluters

Australia must stop approving new coal and gas projects and repurpose fossil fuel subsidies for renewable-powered industries and exports. With our resources, we can become a renewable manufacturing and export superpower, bringing economic benefits and job opportunities to regional areas, including First Nations communities. Public funds currently going to coal, oil, and gas should instead support renewable energy development and climate solutions, creating a clean, sustainable economy for future generations.

Out the outset, ACF emphasises our support for policy reforms that prevent new coal and gas projects or expansions, and for Commonwealth investment in planning for, and managing, the phaseout of existing fossil fuel production and export in line with 1.5°C pathways for Australia.⁶

Phasing out government support for fossil fuel production

ACF calls on the federal government to *reform the Fuel Tax Credit*, removing access to that rebate for major mining and coal, oil and gas companies (including fossil fuel transportation companies). Sensible reforms to the FTC scheme would ensure the scheme's costs do not continue to balloon over the forward estimates, indeed, Budget 2025-2026 estimated that FTC scheme costs would increase from \$10.1 billion in 2024-2025 to \$13.1 billion in 2028-2029 (Budget Paper 1).

In addition to reforms to the FTC scheme, the federal government should consider further *reforms to the regulation and royalties regime in place for offshore oil and gas extraction*. Despite reforms in 2024, the latest projections in MYEFO 2025-2026 continue to downgrade forecast revenue from the Petroleum resources rent tax (PRRT), with the Commonwealth now projected to receive \$0.5 billion less in 2025-2026 and \$1.5 billion less to 2028-2029 than Budget 2025-2026. ACF is concerned that the current design of the PRRT and corporate tax enables offshore oil and gas operators to claim decommissioning costs as deductions against those tax regimes, meaning that taxpayers are effectively subsidizing offshore oil and gas cleanup via foregone government revenue. ACF provides further recommendations regarding offshore oil and gas decommissioning below.

Similarly, despite eligible R&D activities explicitly excluding prospecting, exploring or drilling for minerals or petroleum (s 355-25(2)(b) of the *Income Tax Assessment Act 1997* (Cth)), the incentive continues to be claimed by major fossil fuel corporates. For example, in the 2022-2023

⁶ Climate Resource, *Australia's coal outlook in a warming world – Insights from integrated assessment models* (December 2025, Outlook Briefing).



income, Chevron Australia Holdings Pty Ltd was the seventh largest corporate claimant of the R&D tax incentive. In 2022-2023, the mining sector was the third largest claimant sector, claiming the tax incentive for around \$1.5 billion of R&D expenditure.⁷ Budget 2025-2026 estimated that the R&D tax incentive would cost Australian taxpayers \$4.5 billion in 2025-2026 rising to \$5 billion by 2028-2029 for the mining sector alone (Budget Paper 1).

It is time for the Albanese government to *redeploy the \$1.9 billion Middle Arm Gas Precinct Subsidy* announced prior to the 2022 federal election. Since that announcement four years ago, \$1.9 billion set aside for the Northern Territory has languished in the government's contingent reserves. It's time to commit that money to measures will deliver genuine and near-term benefits to Northern Territorians – better jobs, clean energy and climate outcomes. This can be achieved via redeploying the \$1.9 billion subsidy in a Repowering the Territory Package,⁸ including:

- \$490 million to contribute to the renationalisation of the Port of Darwin, buying out the depreciated lease value over the port;
- \$254 million to construct big battery and solar capacity that enables the NT to achieve 50% renewables or higher by 2030, and a further \$50 million to expand regional microgrid investment construction projects;
- \$40 million to invest in four Northern Australia Renewable Energy Training Centres of Excellence and subsidies for remote trainees;
- \$51 million to invest in a Top End Solar program, \$225 million into a Climate Smart Housing Upgrade Program and \$119 million into renewables and cooling upgrades for all public housing, to support households across the NT to access renewables and climate safe housing; and
- \$272 million remaining to invest in NT programs, or restore to the budget.

ACF further recommends the Albanese government prioritise sensible reforms to the offshore oil and gas decommissioning regime, to ensure that the full costs of decommissioning the industry (estimated to reach \$66.8 billion by 2063)⁹ are borne by the industry not taxpayers. This includes implementing decommissioning planning obligations and a financial securities regime under the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006* (Cth). We further recommend government consider extension and expansion of the *Offshore Petroleum (Laminar and Corallina Decommissioning Cost Recovery Levy) Act 2022* (Cth) to establish a general rehabilitation fund that is able to cover unexpected decommissioning costs that eventuate after title surrender and the return of financial security in the event that trailing liability is inutile, as well as legacy decommissioning liabilities.

⁷ Australian Taxation Office, *R&D Tax Incentive Transparency Report 2022-2023* (September 2025).

⁸ See further, including full financial modelling: *Springmount Advisory, Recharging the Territory: How \$1.5 billion can create energy security and sustainable jobs for the NT* (September 2025, Report commissioned by ECNT and ACF).

⁹ Xodus, *Australian Offshore Oil & Gas Decommissioning Liability Estimate 2025* (April 2025, commissioned by DISR), 5 and 8.



Commit to no further public subsidies for fossil fuels or related infrastructure, consistent with Australia's international obligations

The federal government must not commit to any further subsidization of fossil fuel production, or related infrastructure including common user infrastructure, fossil fuel transportation infrastructure (pipelines or railways) or carbon capture and storage (CCS) infrastructure. ACF recommends:

- Ensure all new special investment vehicles or major new funding streams for existing special investment vehicles include appropriate guardrails, to ensure that Australian public funds are not funneled into coal, oil and gas industries;
- Make no public funding available for CCS and commit to no further funding for CCS. ACF noted, and welcomed, the government's decision not to expand public funding for CCS in Budget 2025-2026; and
- Any gas market intervention should not result in the subsidisation of LNG exporters. We note media speculation that, concurrent with delivering a gas reservation, government is considering intervening in the market as a direct purchaser.¹⁰ We emphasise that any system that enables gas exporters to continue to sell gas into the domestic market at, or close to, export price parity, would amount to the subsidisation of gas and deliver windfall financial gains to major gas exporters at the expense of the public purse.

Invest in methane fossil fuel sector monitoring and mitigation

Finally, ACF calls on the Albanese government to strengthen methane regulation to curb its climate impacts, including investment in improved monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) requirements for fossil fuel producers and to allocate funding for mitigation measures, namely:

- Invest \$40 million to establish a national methane monitoring system and a further \$6 million per annum for ongoing operational and maintenance costs; and
- Allocate sufficient funding for DCCEEW to respond in a timely manner to any substantive methane mitigation recommendations provided by the Climate Change Authority pursuant to its review of opportunities to "radically reduce fossil methane emissions in Australia" in 2026.¹¹

¹⁰ Mike Foley, Nick Toscano and Paul Sakkal, "Labor plan to buy gas to stop factory closures as prices soar" (*The Sydney Morning Herald*, 5 December 2025).

¹¹ Climate Change Authority, *Annual Progress Report* (December 2025), 6.

