



The Climate Reality Project®

AUSTRALIA & PACIFIC

BRANCH MANAGER: Ciaran McCormack
HOST ORGANIZATION: University of Melbourne
Sustainable Society Institute
NUMBER OF CLIMATE REALITY LEADERS: 2,012

REGIONAL CONTEXT

Australia and the Pacific has a diverse network of Climate Reality Leaders who undertake self-directed and collaborative climate action across a wide range of geographies, communities, businesses, and institutions.

The urgency of this work has never been clearer. Those in the Pacific know all too well what it means to live with the impacts of climate change, with devastating cyclones and rising sea levels continuing to affect communities.

In late 2019 and early 2020, extreme heatwaves and drought in Australia fueled devastating wildfires that burned more than 12 million hectares and became headline news across the planet (Source: [ABC](#)). And while the country has made only a weak commitment to reducing emissions through the Paris Agreement, other governments in the region are stepping up, with the Pacific Islands Forum issuing the strongest ever collective statement on climate—[the Kainaki II Declaration](#)—and New Zealand passing the world's second ever Zero Carbon Act in 2019. (Source: [Climate Action Tracker](#)).



Bushfire smoke engulfs afternoon sky in New South Wales, AUS on November 8. Credit: Warwick Morrow.



Group photo from the Brisbane Training, 2019. Credit: The Climate Reality Project.

2019 MILESTONES

In June, nearly **800** new Climate Reality Leaders were trained in Brisbane, Queensland as part of Climate Week QLD. Highlights of the training included hearing from Torres Webb, a proud Erubam man born on Darnley Island, Mike Cannon-Brooks, co-founder and co-CEO of Atlassian, and Dr Anne Poelina of the Nulungu Research Institute. The training doubled the number of Climate Reality Leaders in the region. The remainder of 2019 was spent providing newly and previously trained Climate Reality Leaders with opportunities for continued engagement, networking, capacity building, and climate leadership - including participating in Climate Reality's day of presentations, *24 Hours of Reality: Truth in Action*.



LOOKING AHEAD: 2020-2021

Be Trained – Launch updated knowledge resources produced by various actors following the Australian bushfires, formalize a learning program, including quarterly webinars, and more.

Be Connected – Enhance Climate Reality Leader network by working with mentors and experienced Climate Reality Leaders to provide opportunities for both in-person and online engagement.

Be Ambitious – Amplify the ambitious projects Climate Reality Leaders are already working on via a small grants program, sharing media, and connecting networks. Enlist Climate Reality Leaders to participate in campaign to raise ambition within businesses and local governments.

To contact the Australia and Pacific branch, please write to hello@climatereality.org.au