

# BUILDING A COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

## MESSAGING GUIDE

### Background:

Governments of the Australia and Pacific region are required to submit new and revised Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs – climate action plans and targets) in February 2025. At COP 21 in 2015, governments in this region signed the Paris Agreement promising to align their NDC action plans and targets for reducing global heating well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels\*. The 10 February 2025 deadline for new and revised NDCs presents a unique opportunity for diverse communities to support, and urge their governments to commit to the targets they promised.

As the biggest producer and exporter of fossil fuels in the region, Australia (followed by Aotearoa, New Zealand) must bring revised NDCs in 2025 that radically reduce greenhouse emissions and align their climate targets to the 1.5°C trajectory. Currently Australia is committed to reducing its emissions by 43% below 2005 levels by 2030, and achieving net zero by 2050\*\*. However, scientists emphasise that for Australia to meet its fair share of 1.5°C, it must commit to a climate target of reaching net-zero by 2035.

While international climate policy can often feel worlds apart from regional climate action, people and their communities have an integral role in voicing their needs for more ambitious climate action on the global stage. Australia has placed a bid to co-host COP 31 in 2026 in partnership with Pacific Island Countries. If Australia wins the bid, we will have a Conference of the Parties (COP) on our doorstep in just over two years. It's time to get ready.

As a region we have so much to learn from the Pacific Island Countries and Small Island Developing states, who have all played a crucial role in securing ambitious international climate policy and cooperation over the years. At the state level, most Australian states have more ambitious net-zero targets than are represented in Australia's NDC\*\*\*. If Australia wins its bid to host COP 31 in 2026, we must be prepared as a network to make the most of leveraging this enormous opportunity for climate action across the region.

As members of civil society, we must come together to put pressure on governments and decision makers of this region to commit to securing a safe and healthy climate – starting by ensuring their NDCs meet their commitment to keep heating well below 2°C.

*Through conversations of past years, we have identified opportunities for Climate Reality Leaders to play an integral role in influencing ambitious climate commitments. Climate Reality Leaders are uniquely positioned to advocate for meaningful action by informing their communities on international climate action, and placing pressure on decision makers to make good on their promises to provide us with a climate that is safe for current and future generations.*

## Some climate actions and tools we have identified include:

- Bringing those outside the climate conversation into the discussion by:
  - Informing your communities on why a local voice in climate policy is important; by hosting Kitchen Table Conversations, Talanoas, Huis and/or giving presentations at local events or to key decision makers.
- Joining us to build a Climate Reality Community of Practice that equips a strong core of Climate Reality Leaders and their friends with the knowledge and skills to be mentors to others in climate policy and action over coming years. We can't do this alone.
- Developing a net-zero 2035 vision for your community of choice, and sharing it with your elected member or representative.

## Included in the Community of Practice Information Pack:

1. Strategy slide deck
2. Messaging guide
3. KTC conversation questions guide
4. What is a KTC visual guide
5. KTC run sheet

## REFERENCES:

\* United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. (2015). The Paris Agreement.

<https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement>

\*\* Parliament of Australia. (2022). Climate Change Bill 2022.

\*\*\* Net Zero targets across Australia: A comprehensive overview by state and sector (2023).

<https://www.felix.net/blog/net-zero-targets>