

CALLING FOR A CLIMATE EDUCATION STRATEGY

**To the Minister for Education &
Universities Accord Panel**

20 March 2024

We, the undersigned Australian universities, organisations and associations, call on the Australian Government to move quickly to build the skills and knowledge base required for our transformation to a net zero emissions economy and community by 2050.

We urge the Australian Government to announce a commitment to a National Climate Education Strategy, developed in consultation with the proposed new Australian Tertiary Education Commission, Jobs and Skills Australia and all relevant stakeholders to embed career-linked climate skills in all relevant university, school and VET courses, and lead work on identifying and funding universities, schools and VET to fill gaps in relevant fields of study and skills development.

The review of the Universities' Accord was to "... make recommendations ... to deliver a higher education system that meets the current and future needs of the nation, and targets to achieve this", however no specific climate education priorities were identified.

Australia's emissions reduction and energy transition targets are at critical risk due to a shortage of relevant skills and knowledge – to research, design, build, innovate and operate the new technologies and infrastructure vital to a net zero economy and society. A National Climate Education Strategy can help achieve many of the University Accord objectives of inclusivity, equity and justice.

The recent Intergenerational Report (IGR23) notes that "Climate change and global climate action will have profound impacts on the economy, reshaping Australia's industry mix and requiring effective mitigation and adaptation". An effective response includes "Building a highly skilled workforce [which] will require more collaboration across higher education, vocational education and training, industry and governments, and a culture of lifelong learning."

It is our consensus that career-linked climate and climate related knowledge should be included in all relevant degrees, as most fields of study will have a role in our future clean economy. STEM, business and education skills and knowledge are the first priority and essential, but all education institutions need to offer students climate related study options because climate change will affect all of us and all our jobs.

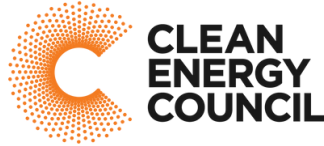
In its submission to the Universities Accord Interim Report, Deakin Energy Networks – part of Deakin University – urged the Universities Accord to recommend the development of a concerted Climate Education Strategy. This was not recommended in the Report to Government.

It is our "Call" that the Government must address this shortcoming and announce a National Climate Education Strategy.

This theme reflects the view of the undersigned organisations.

WE'RE CALLING FOR A CLIMATE EDUCATION STRATEGY

We, the undersigned...



Promoting the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities



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Have a question or wish to add your name? **Email**
Contact Deakin Energy Networks by email at: dens@deakin.edu.au

