



Name: ClimateWise Associations

Submission date: 6/06/2025

1. Reduce the cost of meeting carbon targets

1. What could be done to improve the cost-effectiveness and alignment of policies to reduce emissions across the industrial, electricity and transport sectors?

Published research by ClimateWise Associations (CWA) in 2023 revealed that many industry associations and associated representative institutes have not included climate or emissions reduction in their actual strategies, business plans, risk management plans or even their training programs. While many may respond to governments on policy, such as Net Zero Targets or have a session update on climate policy in their annual general conferences, they have not made changes to their own training or advice to members, for example, on climate risk to members and actions that will cut emissions. The consequences for this are very serious, particularly as associations continue to deliver advice, training etc to members that is clearly insufficient for mitigation and adaptation.

We advocate for the government to provide funding and support those programs that engage these associations for them to become climate-wise advisors and providers for their members across Australia.

We are confident this will be one of the most cost-effective investments by the government. We estimated that for ~\$20M over 4 years the Australian Government can help leading associations and institutes become climate leaders with their members. A program that enables associations to become climate-wise leaders will transform the role and contribution of potentially hundreds of existing associations toward net zero and adaptation. We made a submission to Australian Treasury in 2023 on highly effective program that can be delivered, and have since been teaming up with Climate Action for Associations in UK given their expertise for entry into Australia.

Our research has identified the consistent gaps, opportunities and methods to engage to assist associations integrate climate risk and emissions reduction, through both a best-practice governance and member-retention lens. It borrows from the successful programs of governments to engage with associations for them to integrate OHS into their services and advice in 1990s.

2. Are there gaps in the emissions-reduction policies in the industrial, electricity and transport sectors which should be addressed?

Absolutely. Current policies are very much based around technological solutions. These are good, but there is a fundamental low-cost opportunity for Australia to harness the role and power associations to become climate-wise leaders and also agents of necessary transformation in Australia.

Taking one simple example, associations currently lack a template and knowledge to update their annual member Award categories to include criteria for climate-ready or low emissions. This means that companies are not incentivised or rewarded by their own professional body for lower emissions or climate-wise projects. This means ‘best in class’ amongst many professional bodies continues to be high emission, high risk projects.

Likewise, our research indicates that many associations, even large ones, need professional advice on how to include climate risk in their own strategy and adapt their strategic plans and member programs. This means that associations are not planning for a climate-constrained future and anticipating impact upon their sector, their members, their revenue or services. Most associations are still developing strategies to 2030 that assume Business As Usual on climate and emissions.

Furthermore, they are delivering member programs and training that fail to advise members on ways to cut emissions or get ready for worsening climate! We have found this lack of climate-wise readiness ranges from large and small associations in manufacturing, to transport to renewable energy.

Our proposal to the Australian Treasury in 2023 outlined a systematic low-cost approach and program by which the Australian Government can enable associations to become informed and competent agents for lower emissions and adaptation to climate risk themselves and amongst their members. This is also significant as associations are trusted voices and advisors to hundreds if not millions of tradespeople and professionals who are decision makers and provide services to millions of Australians. This is available on our website.

3. Are there any duplicative emissions-reduction policies in the industrial, electricity and transport sectors which could be streamlined?

We do not see any duplication in govt policies or programs that recognise the power of associations to become climate-wise leaders. to the contrary we see this as a tremendous gap in Australia's current approach, in contrast to that adopted by some countries overseas.

2. Speed up approvals for new energy infrastructure

1. Are planning and approvals processes for large energy infrastructure taking too long? If so, what causes the most delay?

The participant did not respond to this question.

2. How can planning and approvals processes be sped up without unduly compromising regulatory standards?

The participant did not respond to this question.

3. Should clean energy projects be treated differently to other projects for the purpose of environmental and other approvals? If so, how?

The participant did not respond to this question.

4. What can be done to build local community support for new energy infrastructure projects?

The participant did not respond to this question.

5. Please outline any evidence showing the productivity benefits of faster approvals for energy projects.

The participant did not respond to this question.

3. Encourage adaptation by addressing barriers to private investment

1. What are the barriers and enablers impacting decisions by owner-occupiers, landlords and developers about how housing is built and updated over time so that it is resilient to the effects of climate change?

Our points above are as applicable to the building, housing, landscaping, town planning associations as to manufacturing and energy. Our research and discussions with the MBA, PIA and other associations indicate desire for assistance to integrate climate risk and emission reduction into their programs, such as training, certifications, award programs.

2. What information do people need to make decisions about where to live, how to build and how to upgrade their homes to appropriately factor in climate change?

Again, we go back to the role of associations to correctly advise and support their members to be climate-wise in their practices. This applies to REI, MBA, HIA, Master Plumbers etc. Currently for example, REI has no program or strategy to inform their members of climate risk, and with appropriate support as we outline, they could be supported to see that this could pose as a risk and liability for them, as well as an opportunity to ensure their members are providing good trusted advice to home buyers/renters.

The same can be said for plumbers advising home owners on wider downpipes to minimise risk of internal flooding from major rain events. This would assist reduce costs of insurance claims and stress.

3. What are the most cost-effective retrofitting options for improving the resilience of Australia's existing housing stock? What are their costs and benefits?

The participant did not respond to this question.

4. What role might minimum standards play in ensuring the resilience of Australia's housing stock?

The participant did not respond to this question.

5. The impacts of climate change are being factored into the regulation of where and how houses are built in different ways around Australia. What does leading practice look like? Where is there room for improvement? Are there lessons we can learn from other countries?

The participant did not respond to this question.

Cover sheet: Supporting document #1



ClimateWise
Associations

CLIMATEWISE ASSOCIATIONS
PRE-BUDGET SUBMISSION
2024/25

I believe that we have a responsibility to participate and to achieve real solutions, to achieve real outcomes, to protect our manufacturers, to grow our economy while we're dealing with emissions reduction. We have a huge opportunity to be a renewable energy superpower. We have an opportunity to take advantage of the fact we're in the fastest growing region of the world in human history. And the transition that we're seeing is a global transition. It is a challenge, but it's also an opportunity. And I want to pay tribute to the work that Chris Bowen has done in working to achieve this outcome.

**Prime Minister Anthony Albanese
Press conference, Parliament House
27 March 2023**



Australian Government, The Treasury
Pre-budget submissions
PreBudgetSubmissions@treasury.gov.au

Exponential Return on Investment for climate action

This submission outlines recommendations to mobilise Australia's associations to become active leaders in emissions reduction and climate resilience. This submission does not delve into the detail of government policies, which is well covered by many. It proposes a small funding scheme and agreement to establish a highly efficient, high-impact national capacity building program. The actions recommended in this submission provide a framework for activating associations through this targeted, highly cost-effective program.

Governments alone cannot achieve the changes needed to reach our emission reduction targets and prepare 26 million Australians for the impacts of climate change. Associations are a largely untapped resource that holds sector-specific knowledge and delivers many influential programs like training and certifications across their extensive membership and sectors. They reach into every business, industry, profession and community in Australia.

The return on investment for the Australian Government is enormous. A modest outlay will enable exponential growth via an established funding model using an independent entity to help associations transform from Business-as-Usual to proactive climate-wise leaders, thereby improving their members' attitudes, actions and investments.

ClimateWise Associations has laid the foundations for this transformation. Australian Government funds will enable and expedite expansion, with flow-on effects across Australia's essential business, industry, professions and community sectors. The program is complementary to the Government's strategic approach and policies on specific sectors.

ClimateWise Associations provides the conduit to influence and motivate Australia's member-based organisations, including the vast numbers of SME businesses and to accelerate the necessary transformation of this nation.

We and colleagues in several associations welcome an opportunity to discuss the significant needs and opportunities for Australia set out in this proposal.

Kind regards,
Helen Millicer, GAICD, Churchill Trust Fellow
Co-Founder, ClimateWise Associations

ClimateWise Associations' approach is to work with governments to quickly empower associations and thereby their millions of members (including SMEs and communities) to accelerate Australia's transition to a zero emissions, climate-ready and highly productive resilient economy and society.

In the spirit of reconciliation, ClimateWise Associations acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea, and community.
We pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.



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KEY POINTS



THE POTENTIAL	Australia can meet and exceed its climate change targets by activating associations and their millions of member businesses and individuals
THE CONTEXT	Australia’s more than 4,000 associations – from business, industry, professions and community – are currently largely inactive on emissions reduction and climate change resilience. Some associations are merely responsive to government policies and regulations. Australians, including vast numbers of SMEs, look to their association for guidance, training and leadership. A grant scheme that offers tailored co-ordinated practical programs to associations will enable them to easily apply their sector knowledge and lead their members to new and effective climate-wise actions.
THE OPPORTUNITY	To properly establish a world-first capacity-building program with wide-reaching engagement and outreach, that becomes self-sustaining.

WHO WE ARE

ClimateWise Associations (CWA) is committed to accelerating Australia's transition to a zero-emission, climate-resilient future by empowering associations and thereby their millions of members.

Our ground-breaking capacity-building program aims to deliver practical, coordinated, professional outreach services, activities and training to inform, upskill and empower the leaders and change agents within Australia's thousands of member-based organisations.

Australia's associations need specific coordinated programs of support to revamp their strategies, member programs and investments from business as usual to be able to join governments and other leaders in cutting emissions and addressing climate change.

Established in 2021 as a small team with an online presence, we are expanding our reach into a national not-for-profit company limited by guarantee utilising our expertise in organisational and industry transformation, climate, emissions and management of government funded programs to achieve major policy objectives. We are supported by leading experts, associations, peak bodies and institutions across the country.

OUR VISION

Our vision is for Australian associations to become proactive leaders delivering tailored strategies and programs that cut emissions and manage climate-related risks within their operations, memberships and sectors.

We champion the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement, with the aim to aid associations to become wise on climate. In other words, become 'climate-wise'.

WHAT WE DO

We provide knowledge, encouragement, forums, tools and training to overcome the common challenges faced by member organisations: lack of time, expertise and confidence in climate science and emissions reduction.

Our suite of free online tools, templates and resources are available to associations of all sizes and sectors. Our program and plans complement and advance both science-based targets and government policies and programs, ensuring a comprehensive and impactful contribution to Australia's targets, climate-readiness, economy and society.

Our website – climatewise.org.au – has comprehensive guidance and resources available at no cost. This submission and our plans are based on solid understanding of audience, need and potential.

CO-FOUNDERS

Co-founders [Helen Millicer](#) and [Gail Greatorex](#) created the program to fill a major gap and assist with systemic transformation as quickly as possible. They apply their extensive experience and insights in government, associations and business to establish and grow the program and form strategy with the guidance of their expert Advisory Group.

[Helen Millicer](#), GAICD, Churchill Trust Fellow, CEO of One Planet Consulting. Non Executive Director on government and national association boards delivering improved sustainability, lower emissions and climate-readiness. National expert engaged on systemic industry transformative projects, good governance and fund management.

[Gail Greatorex](#), Owner and Principal, Product Safety Solutions advising companies and national associations on design, risk and liability. National expert on government regulation and industry standards following distinguished career at ACCC.

ADVISORY GROUP

[Julie Green](#) – FAICD, FCA, expert Non Executive Director, accountant in major national transport, healthcare and infrastructure companies, NGOs and government entities including RACV and Greening Australia.

[Dr Jill Fagan](#) – GAICD, expert leader for Victoria's Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2017-2020 across government and across all regions and sectors. Currently, Manager Planning and Liveability, North East Water. Adjunct Associate Professor RMIT, Fellow Peter Cullen Trust.

[Vaughan Levitske PSM](#) – Experienced government policy and program agency Chief Executive (17 years). Currently, Non Executive Director, Chair, Mentor, Member Australian Ministerial Advisory Council, ecologist, policy designer and strategic leader in product stewardship and circular economy, waste and recycling.

[Omer Soker](#) – Chief Executive Officer, Charitable Recycling Australia. Founder of Association Impossible, futurist, author, national consultant on strategy.

THE PROBLEM

Australian businesses, organisations and communities face critical challenges in reaching emission targets and climate preparedness.

These include:

1. LACK OF UNDERSTANDING

Despite a growing desire among Australians, businesses and organisations to contribute to better climate risk management and emissions reductions, there exists a widespread lack of knowledge of emissions, climate science and how to proceed.¹

Efficient low cost and accessible systems need to be in place to support them, and at scale for genuine momentum and comprehensive transformation.

2. ECONOMIC PRESSURES

Businesses, people and organisations are not opting for energy-efficient, low-emission vehicles, equipment and buildings in part due to cost-of-living pressures and the widescale misunderstanding of value. Associations representing various sectors and manufacturers, sellers, installers and repairers can do more to facilitate the national transition to change the trajectory and avoid the substantial legacy consequences of this problem.

3. SME ENERGY VULNERABILITY

Collectively, Australia's 2.6 million² SME businesses are major energy users and emitters, and they are vulnerable to rising energy costs. Depending on sector and location, they face climate-related impacts on assets, operations, viability, sales and supply chains.

Engaging SMEs via associations is crucial to our collective efforts to decarbonise, improve climate resilience and have a strong economy with private investment.

4. WORKFORCE KNOWLEDGE GAP

Australia's vast workforce of over 14 million³ (more than half the population), lacks essential climate science knowledge. The gap between climate and emission experts and other professions and workers is enormous and must be narrowed.

Integrating basic energy and emissions management and climate risk training into existing industry and professional workforce programs that are managed by associations, is crucial to bridging this gap.

5. REGULATORY PRESSURES

The Australian Government's and international trade requirements are becoming more rigorous, particularly in areas such as decarbonisation, reporting and sustainable finance. While large corporates and organisations have the capacity to employ specialists and consultants to help them meet these requirements, the vast majority of SMEs and small organisations do not.

Engaging SMEs through their associations as providers, advisors and networks is an essential part of their journey to compliance and sustainability.

"The team behind ClimateWise Associations has been assiduous in consulting industry associations and other stakeholders ... and with appropriate resources it will deliver credible, responsive and constructive support to Australia's associations."

Louise McGrath, Head of Industry Development and Policy, Australian Industry Group

THE CLIMATEWISE ASSOCIATIONS SOLUTION

Associations have three key advantages:

- 1 Deep knowledge and understanding of their members and sectors**
- 2 Extensive reach, networks and influence with members and stakeholders**
- 3 Established, trusted, tailored education, training and outreach programs**

We aim to engage priority associations to rapidly mobilise Australians – at scale – to cut emissions and manage climate risks.

The CWA program capitalises on these three strengths to accelerate practical action. It opens pathways for the Government to reach extensive new audiences that can help Australia cut greenhouse gas emissions, facilitate tailored climate resilience and adaptation strategies and accelerate upskilling and climate-wise investment across all sectors.

¹ World Trade Organisation, [Small Business and Climate Change](#), 2022

² Reserve Bank of Australia, [Bulletin – September 2023 Finance Recent Developments in Small Business Finance and Economic Conditions](#)

³ [Australian Bureau of Statistics Labour Force Australia, December 2023](#)

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS

1. OUTREACH PROGRAM EXPANSION

ClimateWise Associations is an efficient not-for-profit capacity-building platform providing services that support member-based associations and their members.

We recommend the Australian Government assist expand CWA's not-for-profit, independent outreach program to accelerate and mobilise more associations to become climate-wise active leaders. A funding agreement with the Government will facilitate growth and provision of an expanded suite of training, forums, carbon auditing and climate/emission reduction strategies that are required by associations and their members. It will especially target priority professions and industry sectors, and in turn many SME businesses and vulnerable communities.

Leveraging smart programs, forming 'Communities of Practice' and sharing resources will have an exponential impact, reaching millions of members and enabling customers and audiences to become climate-wise.

2. GRANTS SERVICE PROGRAM

We recommend the Australian Government establish a four-year grant scheme and agreement with CWA to deliver coordinated capacity-building programs accessible at scale and minimal cost to many associations to accelerate their shift to become climate-wise leaders.

Associations want to draw upon our not-for-profit independent platform and tap into our proposed panels of selected experts to help form or update their own strategies, training, communications and advisory services. These proposed programs follow the model of successful programs such as Sustainability Advantage funded by the NSW Government and the previous Australian Government's Clean Energy Future association carbon auditing support program. Associations want easy access to low cost, professional, practical, impactful services that align with regulatory compliance requirements, realities of members and their association's operations.

CWA is an effective independent platform managed by experienced experts that can deliver tailored programs under a grant agreement using its independent, not-for-profit status as a conduit between government and many diverse associations.

A suite of targeted programs – relatively small by government standards but significant for associations – delivered under a coordinated master funding agreement will quickly strengthen association and sector capacity. Grant-funded programs can also foster accountability,

reporting and progress measurement across sectors, and build shared vision, strategies and investments between associations, members and government. For more detail on Recommendations, refer to page 8.

"I'm very excited that there could be this dedicated and expanding resource that could assist small associations like ours to take on this massive area of new work."

**Dr Jennifer Semple, Senior Manager,
Sustainability & Education Programs,
Accord Australasia**

MOBILISING ASSOCIATIONS FOR RAPID CLIMATE-WISE ADAPTATION

Associations are incredibly influential, with vast reach and deep understanding of their sector. Research in the United States shows 1 in 3 Americans are members of an association and the proportion is likely comparable in Australia⁴. According to IBIS World, there are between 3,000 to 9,000 associations in Australia covering every profession, industry sector, business, geography, interest and community⁵.

From electricians and plumbers to builders, accountants, risk managers and healthcare workers, all have trusted professional or industry associations delivering quality training, information and programs.

⁴ [USA Facts](#) website (accessed 23 January 2024)

⁵ IBIS World Australia, [Market size, industry analysis and forecasts 2024-29](#), also IBIS World, [Industry Associations](#) (accessed 23 January 2024)

ASSOCIATIONS HOLD THE KEY TO AUSTRALIA'S TRANSITION

To accelerate Australia's transition to a climate-resilient future, it is essential that member-based organisations update their strategies and priorities, seminars, training, certifications, practice standards and investment in staff, programs and member funds.

CWA is focused on facilitating connections and exchanges between three priority groups of member-based organisations to expedite this process.

1. 'ENABLING' PROFESSIONS THAT CULTIVATE CLIMATE- WISE LEADERS

This group includes those professional associations that are well-informed on climate and emissions and those responsible for training and certifying members central to a climate-wise future.

Examples include the Governance Institute of Australia (on climate risk and strategy), the Chartered Accountants of Australia and New Zealand (on carbon accounting and reporting) and the Insurance Council of Australia (on climate science and climate risk). It also includes industry associations such as the Clean Energy Council, Energy Efficiency Council, Australian Banking Association and other finance associations, to name a few.

Such associations, and their members, will be instrumental in informing their customers and up-skilling other associations, professions and industries on climate and emissions.

2. HIGH EMISSION INDUSTRY SECTORS

This includes associations in sectors with a high emissions profile, trade-exposed to carbon border regulations (such as CBAM) and those vital to Australia's economic future. The members of these associations are largely businesses, with high proportion of SMEs and contractors, who are increasingly asked to report on emissions by major customers.

This includes such sectors and related supply chains as transport, manufacturing (including building products, packaging, food and fibre), agriculture, infrastructure, heating/cooling, equipment and technology supply and maintenance.

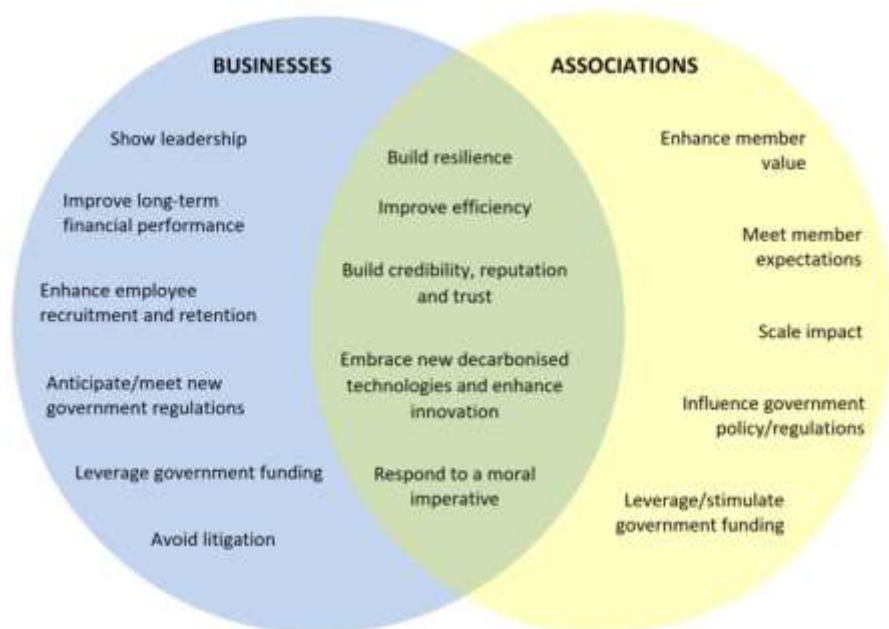
These sectors do not have significant knowledge of climate, climate trends, emission reduction. Yet, they are instrumental in cutting emissions and determining

Australia's capacity to meet targets and our economy to adjust, be competitive and remain resilient.

3. HIGH-RISK INDUSTRY SECTORS AND COMMUNITIES

This includes associations in sectors and supply chains being heavily impacted by climate change and weather disruptions. These sectors and members are a mix of government and non-government businesses and NFPs that are geographically dispersed, with most being SMEs.

This comprises builders, housing construction, infrastructure, tourism, events and service sectors, renters and community welfare providers. These groups are greatly impacted by climate-events, insurance and uncertainty, causing stress and worry regarding their future. They need steady independent climate-wise advice, training and transition strategies from their associations; and in turn, frank advice from their business service providers such as accountants, lawyers, finance lenders, risk and strategy advisors (Group 1 above).



The case for association action on emissions and climate change

Accord Australasia, representing personal care and cleaning product manufacturers in Australia, produced this diagram for its members explaining the valuable role associations play in assisting businesses with climate and emissions reduction. This work was informed by engagement with ClimateWise Associations in 2022. (Climate Change: Information Paper and the Case for action, April 2023)



HOW CLIMATEWISE ASSOCIATIONS CAN SUPPORT GOVERNMENT

The Australian Government has taken the lead in introducing measures to transform Australia's economy and systems.

This ranges from significant targets and investments in renewable energy to emission reporting requirements for companies, fuel efficiency standards for vehicles and improved energy-efficient housing and building standards⁶.

These measures are essential. As Minister Chris Bowen has rightly observed, however, the scale and depth of transformation required cannot be achieved by governments alone⁷. Australia needs the cooperation and leadership of member-based associations and through them, their members, sectors and communities.

The CWA program addresses four of the Government's primary climate action concerns and objectives:

1. Emissions reduction
2. Climate resilience
3. Worker skills
4. Strategic financial and resource investment into Australia's transition.

Our program provides content and strategies tailored to the needs of Australia's associations as a way to inspire and facilitate emissions reduction and climate risk management leadership. This is the most efficient way to engender widescale action and behavioural change in the Australian economy, industry sectors and society.

Despite a critical need, our experience and examination of diversely sized associations covering various sectors indicate that very few are currently addressing climate or emissions. Most don't know where to begin.

This is similar to the situation faced by the local government sector 5-10 years ago. Local councils have since forged ahead with strategies, KPIs, targets, measurements, programs, renewable energy, changed investment of funds, professional training and revamped communications. They have integrated an understanding of climate and emissions and are making climate-wise investments, transforming their planning, reporting and asset management and procurement accordingly.

We are yet to see the same knowledge and action implemented across industries, businesses and

communities. This can only happen by engaging via their associations.

The challenge is that most associations, unlike local councils, are small (0-5 staff), and lack funds and time to individually research, find and confidently engage experts to help them reform strategies, business plans, investments and programs to inform and skill their members and sectors on emissions and climate.

Hence our recommendation for a structured program that offers a range of identified capacity building services, which are open to associations to select according to their operations and membership. For example, some associations may want experts on strategy and business plans, others on revising training, others on awards and others on energy and emission auditing.

CWA will select and form panels of pragmatic experts who have experience working with and reforming associations and small businesses.

"The scale and depth of transformation required cannot be achieved by governments alone."

**Hon Chris Bowen,
Minister for Climate Change
and Energy**

ASSOCIATIONS SHOWING CLIMATE-WISE LEADERSHIP AND VAST POTENTIAL FOR MORE

CWA has identified a few Australian associations already taking steps toward climate-wise leadership. These associations demonstrate the enormous potential available to Australia to accelerate and expand effective change across the country for the benefit of millions of members, audiences and communities.

While all associations have to start somewhere, CWA has identified that very few have integrated and expanded beyond one or two areas of climate-wise activity (and beyond responding to government policies).

There are many areas for action and improvement for associations to be leaders for their members. As the table on page 6 indicates, this includes aspects of governance (strategy, budget, resourcing, fund management, board policies and KPIs) and operations (communications, programs, advisory services, awards, training, certification of members), that require attention for associations to become powerful and influential climate-wise leaders.

⁶ Various links: [Renewable Energy](#), [Emission Reporting](#), [Vehicle Emissions](#), [Energy efficient homes](#)

⁷ Higgins electorate Climate Forum presentation by Minister Chris Bowen, 23 October 2023

ASSOCIATIONS SHOWING CLIMATE-WISE LEADERSHIP

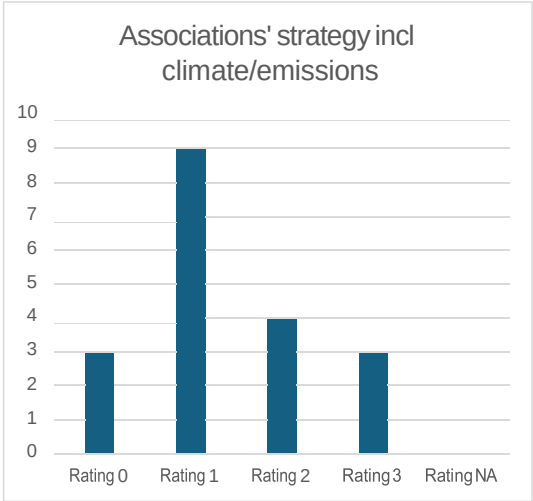
ASSOCIATION	INITIATIVE
Australian Retailers Association	Climate Action Plan sets out a holistic vision and plan for the retail sector
Australian Institute of Refrigeration Air Conditioning and Heating	Proactive plan for transition to low emissions with its industry blueprint, ' PRIME: for the future '
Ethnic Communities' Council Victoria and the Victorian Council of Social Service	Research paper, Valuing strengths, building resilience: Improving emergency management for multicultural communities in Victoria
Planning Institute of Australia	The Climate Change Unit is integrated into the PIA Certified Practising Planner Program, as part of ongoing core professional development.
Tourism Industry Council Tasmania	Emission reduction and reporting online platform , partnership with ERC Australia available to TICT members
Horse South Australia	A highly practical Action Plan for horse owners to manage the dire impact of climate change upon their horses
Central Victoria Greenhouse Alliance	Collaborative community bulk buy program 'MASH' (More Australian Solar Homes)
Victorian Automobile Chamber of Commerce	Investment Committee has engaged investment advisers who consider ESG factors, including climate change risk

AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATIONS' CLIMATE-WISE PERFORMANCE

ClimateWise Associations conducted a detailed online analysis of 19 associations to ascertain their progress and status in integrating climate risk and emissions into their strategies, reports and member programs. This used a short version of the [ClimateWise Associations Rating Tool](#).

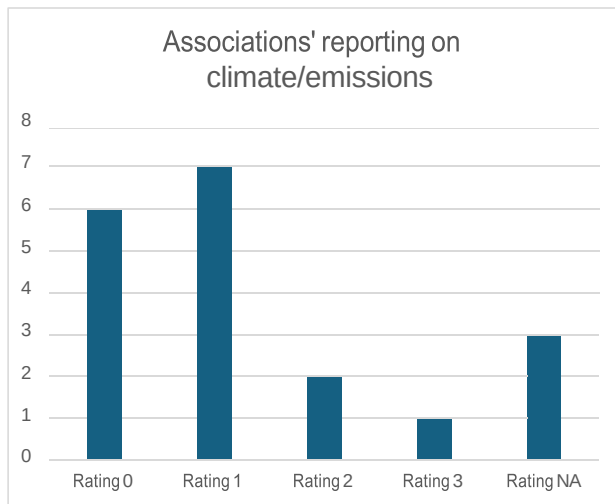
These associations range in size and sector including a mix of Professional Enabling, high emission intensive and high climate risk associations. These charts indicate the journey has commenced, and that there is plenty of room for improvement.

GRAPH KEY	
Rating 0	No Progress
Rating 1	Beginning
Rating 2	Advancing
Rating 3	Leading



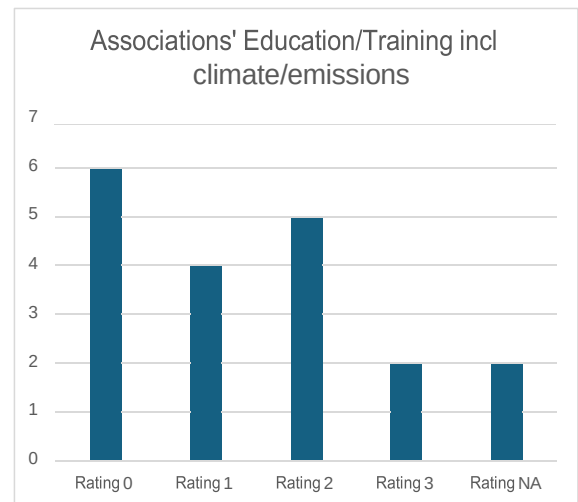
Strategy

A few leading associations with high rating performance, such as the Australian Banking Association, are responding to regulations or are funded by the Government to develop climate-emissions strategy. Most have at least acknowledged that climate change and emissions are real and on their radar, with plenty of room for improvement.



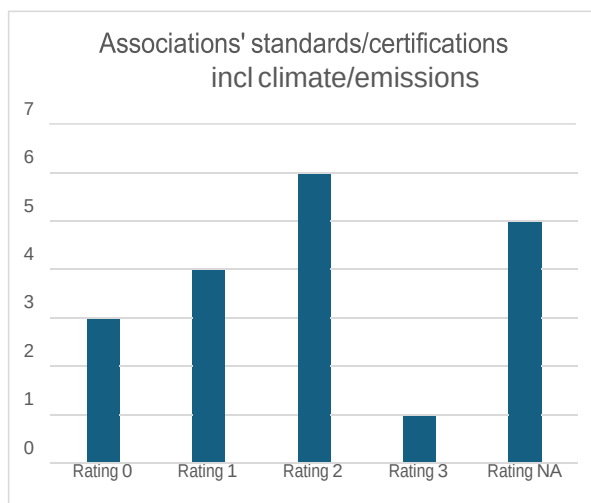
Reporting/Accountability

Many associations have yet to start informing their members about the impact of climate change on their sector or accounting for emissions linked to their industry or their own operations. While many acknowledge the importance of addressing this issue, they have not taken steps in reporting or addressing these concerns. Most note that it is an area warranting attention.



Education/Training

Improved performance is observed when climate and emissions topics are included in annual conferences and workshops for members or sectors. Notably, most sessions remain informational rather than instructive or skill-building. One association has a beneficial arrangement with a professional provider to assist its members.

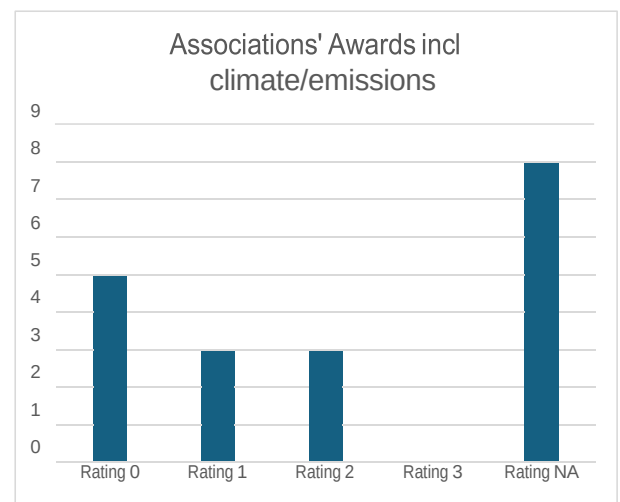


Standards/Certifications

Those associations that offer codes, standards or certifications have initiated some form of integration, especially those Enabling Associations that respond to regulations or public scrutiny. Despite many delivering extensive programs, there are some notable gaps in their efforts.

By raising the topic of climate, RCSA discovered a couple of very passionate members who have contributed greatly to the association's actions.

**Robin Shepherd, Head of Operations and Member Services,
Recruitment Consulting and Staffing Association**



Awards

Associations that host awards are on a journey to integrate climate and emissions considerations into their criteria for high performance. Some awards feature a dedicated sustainability category, but the extent of rigor applied in assessment varies. Concerns arise in instances of greenwashing, particularly when there is an absence of science-based targets, standards and frameworks like Climate Active.

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

The Australian Government to recognise the vital role of member-based associations and allocate \$20M over four (4) years to mainstream climate-wise capacity building skills and transformational strategic actions amongst associations for their members. It can do this via:

1. Expanding CWA's not-for-profit independent outreach capacity-building activities and services for many Australian associations and their members.
2. Establishing a grant scheme specifically for member-based associations, managed by ClimateWise Associations under contract agreement with the Australian Government for coordinated expert services and small allocations, to produce a practical, high-impact, wide-spread transformative and enabling program that addresses the needs of many associations and their members.

Proposed systemic activities and recommended coordinated services could include:

PROVISION OF CLIMATE-WISE CONTENT AND ADVICE

Expand materials that associations can use for their members including the current library of templates; as well as deliver online seminars and training on climate adaptation and emissions reduction.

ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Forums, workshops and Communities of Practice supporting groups of association executives and members to adapt of their strategies, training, certifications, conferences, reporting etc.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND CARBON ACCOUNTING TRAINING

Conduct short 1–2-day training sessions for association and members on climate and carbon fundamentals. This initiative will rapidly build understanding and capacity to manage energy and carbon sources, meet reporting obligations and understand the impact of procurement and supply chain (Scope 1, 2, 3).

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND CARBON ACCOUNTING AUDITS

Establish panels of experts to deliver energy efficiency and carbon accounting audits via 10-20 priority associations, especially for SME members.

CLIMATE-WISE TOOLKITS

Support priority 'Enabling' associations to create member toolkits so they quickly become climate-wise advisors/providers to their clients/customers. This may address governance, risk, insurance, financial advice and emissions reporting by professional associations such as the Governance Institute, CAANZ and the Insurance Council of Australia.

PROFESSIONAL ADVISORS

Create panels of appointed independent advisors to engage professional and industry associations to integrate climate resilience and emissions reduction into their strategies and annual business plans. This may be delivered through Communities of Practice around priority sectors and related supply chains such as transport, agriculture, health, building, construction, events, sport and recreation. This will equip and enable associations to support their members with climate-wise advice, training, certifications, services and programs.

AWARDS SPONSORSHIP

Sponsor <200 associations (\$1000-\$5000 per association per year x ~3 years) to embed climate resilience and emissions reduction into their annual professional/ industry award criteria. This will establish climate-wise performance and approaches as standard practice in key sectors, lifting profiles significantly. Criteria to include and reinforce bonafide actions such as carbon audits emission reduction, climate resilience improvements, participation in ClimateActive and other certified programs.

NATIONAL BENCHMARK ANALYSIS

Support independent professional research to conduct first rigorous national benchmark analysis of gaps, opportunities and impact of associations on climate-wise measures, publishing a report with recommendations. This could become an annual survey that sets standards and accountability for climate-wise services and operations of associations for members, informing government policies, strategies, targets and initiatives for industry sectors.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ClimateWise Associations is grateful for support and engaging with these associations and organisations in Australia and overseas:

Accord Australasia

Association Climate Action Coalition, USA

Australasian Promotional Products Association

Australian Centre for Corporate Responsibility

Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Australian Council of Professions

Australian Council of Social Service

Australian Food and Grocery Council

Australian Industry Group

Australian Packaging and Processing Manufacturers Association

Australian Retailers Association

Australian Society of Association Executives

British Columbia Council for International Cooperation, Canada

Business Council of Australia

Business Council for Sustainable Development

Charitable Recycling Association

Chartered Accountants Australia New Zealand

Clean Energy Council

Climate-Kic

ClimateWorks

Climate Action Network Australia

Council of Small Business Australia

Engineers Australia

ERC Australia

Family Business Association

Global Green Tag

Griffith University: Climate Ready Australia

Horse South Australia

Jewish Climate Network

Labor Environment Action Network

Master Builders Association of Victoria

National Retail Association

Planning Institute of Australia

Recruitment Consulting and Staffing Association

Swimming Coaches and Teachers Association

Swimming Pool and Spa Association

The Governance Institute

The Grattan Institute

Veterinarians for Climate Action

Victorian Automobile Chamber of Commerce

Victorian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Work for Climate

XDI Cross Dependency Initiative



In the spirit of reconciliation, ClimateWise Associations acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of country throughout Australia and their connections to land, sea, and community. We pay our respect to their Elders past, present and emerging.