

CALLING FOR A CLIMATE EDUCATION STRATEGY

December, 2023

To the Minister for Education & Universities Accord Panel

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 review of the Universities Accord to recommend that the proposed new Tertiary Education Commission, Jobs and Skills Australia and relevant stakeholders develop a Climate Education Strategy to embed career-linked climate skills in all relevant university courses, and lead work on identifying and funding universities to fill gaps in relevant fields of study and skills development.

The purpose of the review of the Universities' Accord is to "... make recommendations ... to deliver a higher education system that meets the current and future needs of the nation, and targets to achieve this."

The Universities Accord Panel's focus is on how Australia's universities can and must contribute to building the skills, knowledge and qualifications. Future work is required to provide the education needed to navigate, mitigate and adapt to the challenges and opportunities presented by our transition to a net zero future.

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.

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 first priority and essential, but all university students should be offered 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 theme reflects the view of the undersigned organisations.

Deakin Energy Networks

Connecting industry, government and research for a faster energy transition



WE'RE CALLING FOR A CLIMATE EDUCATION STRATEGY

We, the undersigned...



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Deakin Energy
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Have a question or wish to add your name?
Contact Deakin Energy Networks by email at:

Email

dens@deakin.edu.au

