

Carbon Market Institute

Impact Report

2025

Introduction

2025 has been an important year which saw a strengthened Labor government after the federal election. The government set a 2035 emissions reduction target of 62–70% below 2005 levels, and released the Net Zero Plan, supported by 6 sectoral decarbonisation plans.

This came after the release of the National Climate Risk Assessment and National Adaptation Plan, outlining the climate impacts facing Australians and how we will adapt to them.

Clear climate targets and supporting policies are important components for policy stability and certainty to accelerate investment decisions aligned with a net zero, nature positive economy.

Therefore, it was disappointing to see the Coalition walk away from their bi-partisan support of Australia's net zero by 2025 commitment.
In Australia and across the Asia Pacific region, the Carbon Market Institute (CMI) continues to play a central role in developing and supporting policy and regulatory frameworks aligned with Paris Agreement climate goals.

Member engagement is at the heart of what we do with several working groups and taskforces providing input into consultations and the formation of policy positions.

Our flagship event, the Australasian Emission Reductions Summit continues to go from strength to strength with a World class program in 2025. New concepts like the Pavilions extend the opportunity for discussion and education.

Since 21 July 2025, the Code is now administered by an independent, not-for-profit organisation, Australian Carbon Industry Code of Conduct Administrator Limited. 72% of land-based ACCU projects registered since 2018 are now covered by the Code.

2025 has seen a change in leadership of CMI with Dr Sasha Courville appointed CEO after John Connor's departure after almost 6 years.

Looking ahead to 2026, there will be the opportunity to advance international cooperation and progress though Australia's co-presidency of COP31 held in Turkiye, the review of the Safeguard Mechanism in the second half of the year, and the development of a new strategy for CMI.

On behalf of the team, I would like to thank members, sponsors, partners, event and training participants, and broader stakeholder community for their support throughout another busy and productive year.

Sasha Courville
CEO, CMI



Key Achievements and Impact

- **Member Engagement** – over 900 engagements, direct consultations, member briefings, workshops or working groups, taskforces, events, monthly CMI Updates and Member Memos.

- **Integrity & Best Practice** – set up separate entity for the Australian Carbon Industry Code of Conduct, input into ACCU Review reforms, emerging Nature Repair Market as well as net zero sector and other submissions, participation in international and national corporate claims, standards and disclosure development processes.

- **CMI Research** – CMI-Westpac Carbon Markets Report, International Update, Carbon + Nature Report, Future of Safeguard Mechanism modelling

- **Education** – media, events, Corporate Climate Leaders Masterclass on behalf of CER, Seminar series on Carbon Derivatives in partnership with ASX, updated banking and 101 online courses, pre-event seminar and masterclasses, Audit and Integrity explainer.

- **Indigenous Engagement** - CMI continues to implement its Indigenous Engagement & Inclusion Strategy to increase opportunities for Indigenous engagement, event participation and inclusion.

Key Achievements and Impact

- **International Capacity Building** – Vietnamese workshop with Curtin Uni, ·KINETIK Carbon Finance and Carbon Market Course delivery with Griffith University.

- **Project Outputs** – Market Readiness work program – Landholder Guidance and checklists, educational events, Carbon + Nature report.

- **Industry Development** – Participation on Steering committees and/or advisory boards for key policy/framework and market development, policy and market design proposals, method development involvement.

- **Advocacy & Stakeholder Relations** – Development and amplification of annual policy priorities, regular cadence of meetings with National and sub-national departments and agencies, politician briefings, Canberra-based briefings and meeting, consultation and submissions into policy development, regular meetings with peak bodies and industry groups, presentations at roundtables, events – including internationally.

- **Priority Campaigns** – Broaden and deepen climate policy including Safeguard Mechanism in support of the NDC target range of 62 - 70% reductions by 2035, strengthen investor and community confidence in carbon crediting.

CMI's 2025 Strategic Objectives

1

Support our members to make urgent, credible climate strategies and transformative investments.

2

Inform discourse about the urgent need to deploy zero and negative emissions technologies and the optimal use of carbon markets

3

Accelerate corporate and industrial emission reductions alongside whole-of-economy reductions and removals

4

Advance high integrity carbon crediting frameworks that deliver enduring co-benefits

5

Develop domestic and international policy for scalable climate action

2025 in numbers

1,915 Event Participants	**940** Member Meetings	**7** Working Group and Taskforce Meetings
140 Members	**<1,100** CMI in the News	**150K** Active Website Users
13 Submissions	**<18,400** LinkedIn Followers	**43** Code Signatories

2025 Activities

1. Support our members to make urgent, credible climate strategies and transformative investments

Currently there are 140 Corporate & Associate members, and 140 Professional Network members.

- Initiated over 940 unique membership engagement activities to support member capacity-building and market engagement and inform major policy reform and carbon project method development, including:
  - 1:1 Member meetings
  - Working Group and Taskforce participation

- Expanded working groups in 2025 with Safeguard Mechanism Taskforce

- Build on exclusive member content available from the Members Portal including access to Masterclass and Corporate transition webinars recordings

- Delivered a number of events including the Net Zero Transition Planning webinar series, Corporate Climate Masterclass Series on behalf of the CER to educate corporate entities on key policy and regulatory frameworks which are now free for members to access

- Continued engagement with counterpart industry associations through reciprocal agreements, including with ICIN, IETA, AFMA, ALCA, IGCC, RIAA, the CEC, and the EEC.

2025 Activities

How CMI supports its member organisations

- Capacity building and opportunities through inclusive engagement and education
- Promoting best practice and sharing member achievements, experiences and services
- Collaboration and partnerships
- Advocacy and representation
- Sector leadership and strategic vision

2. Inform discourse about the urgent need to deploy net and negative emissions technologies and the optimal use of carbon markets

- Delivered 44 media releases including on key topics such as Safeguard Mechanism, COP31 announcement and corporate transition, and achieved over 1100 CMI mentions across all media platforms
- Undertook direct engagement and background briefings with media
- Built LinkedIn followers to reach over 18,400 with increasing engagement and increasing website visitors
- Presented at industry events including:
  - EEC Industrial Decarbonisation Summit
  - Savanna Fire Forum (ICIN)
  - Hong Kong ESG Exchange Climate Actions Summit
  - Malaysia Carbon Market Forum
  - Korean Global Carbon Market Investment Forum
  - Brazil Business Day – Sustainability and Climate Action
  - Shaping Standards for a sustainable, net zero world (Standards Australia)
  - 2025 Forest Carbon Summit

2025 Activities

- Expanded events offering, to engage and educate existing and prospective members, media and a broad range of delegates:
    - Net Zero Transition Planning webinar series: **62 attendees**
    - Carbon Industry Farming Forum, Lennox Head: **405 attendees**
    - Carbon Market & Investor Forum, Singapore: **234 attendees**
    - Safeguard Mechanism Symposium, Sydney: **78 registrations**
    - Australasian Emissions Reduction Summit, Melbourne: **over 700 attendees**
    - Corporate Climate Masterclass Series on behalf of the CER (Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, Sydney): **650 registrations** (includes webinar)
    - Carbon Derivatives seminar series in partnership with ASX (Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, Sydney): **317 registrations**
    - COP30 Symposium, Melbourne: **61 attendees**
    - Carbon Conversations: **650 registrations**

- COP30 engagement including:
    - Hosting and participation in **four Pavilion panels** and observed negotiations
    - Co-hosting the Australian Ministerial Networking Function (with Australian Government and Brazil Australian Chamber of Commerce).





2025 Activities

3. Accelerating corporate and industrial emission reductions alongside whole-of-economy reductions and removals

- Supported the Australian Government's commitment to a new 2035 emissions reduction target range of 62-70% by 2035
- Influenced the Australian Government's recognition of the critical role of carbon markets in its Net Zero Plan and four sector emissions reduction plans: Electricity and Energy, Resources, Industry and Transport, Agriculture and Land
- Advocated clear policy opportunities for incoming government in the 2025 election with CMI's 2025 election priorities
- Shaped the public discourse on carbon markets in Australia with the second annual CMI-Westpac Carbon Market Report
- Supported continued implementation of the Safeguard Mechanism reforms and ACCU Review, including recommendations towards the establishment of a Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism
- Shaped market-leading guidance on credible carbon market engagement through cross-industry transition working group spearheaded by ClimateWorks Centre

Key Consultations

- Net Zero Plan & Sectoral Decarbonisation Plans
- Safeguard Mechanism reform implementation, including carbon leakage review
- ACCU Review implementation
- Climate Active program reform
- Greenwashing Senate Inquiry
- National Electricity Market Review
- State climate strategies, including Victoria
- Nature Repair Market
- CER market infrastructure
- ACCU and Nature Repair Market method development

2025 Activities

4. Advancing high-integrity carbon crediting frameworks that deliver enduring co-benefits

- Supported the development of high-integrity ACCU and Nature Repair Market methods, through a method sandbox, submissions and taskforces/working groups
- Shaped market infrastructure developments on interoperability and the CER's new unit and certificate registry
- Published Carbon for Nature report in partnership with NRM Regions Australia examining how to better leverage the ACCU Scheme to deliver nature and biodiversity outcomes – with key considerations for government and other stakeholder groups
- Modelling and analysis report on achievement on climate and nature targets for 2030 and 2050 in partnership with ClimateWorks Centre and Deakin University
- New factsheets on Integrity Measures in the ACCU Scheme and Audit Arrangements in the ACCU Scheme
- Landholder guidance: A checklist for partnering on carbon farming projects, developed with the ACI Code with the support of the Queensland Government's Land Restoration Fund
- Facilitated ACCU site visits for government, academic and other stakeholders
- Represented the industry on method-related stakeholder reference groups and committees

2025 Activities

5. Developing domestic and international policy for scalable climate action

- Strengthened Asia Pacific presence and regional network through engagement and collaboration, including ongoing collaboration with IETA and presentations across six Asia Pacific regional events
- Articulated the opportunity for international carbon market cooperation in Australian climate policy platform including an International Roundtable (August), related member Reference Group and discussion paper.
- Official Observer organisation at COP30 and held events including Ministerial Networking Reception and post-COP Symposium
- Facilitated engagement with international best practice frameworks on net zero transition to inform Climate Active program reform and Treasury transition planning guidance
- Contributed to the development of the first international standard on net zero for organisations through ISO
- Published International Markets update

Looking ahead

- Priorities for 2026 include the development of a new organisational strategy for CMI to remain relevant for members and key stakeholders, and assure that priorities are effective to achieve CMI's objectives.
- CMI will be contributing to theSafeguard Mechanism Review in second half of 2026 through our newly constituted Safeguard Mechanism Taskforce and other means. We have recently commissioned modelling to provide a starting point for the upcoming review.
- We will continue to call for the full implementation of the ACCU Review and call for scheme improvements in the method development process.
- The new Code entity will focus on further implementing the Independent Review recommendations, and consulting on Version 3 of the Code.
- In the lead up to COP31 in November in Türkiye, it will be important to shape Australia's priorities under its Presidency sharing arrangement. CMI will be engaging with stakeholders in Australia and the Pacific to assure our voices are heard and accountability on progress is front and centre.

We thank you for your ongoing support toward a net-zero future

Carbon Market Institute