

2026

Impact Report

Carbon Market Institute

Introduction

2026 has been a significant year for Australia's carbon markets, with policy and regulatory developments shaping the transition to a net zero, nature positive economy.

As Australia works towards its 2035 emissions reduction target, high-integrity carbon markets have an increasingly important role in mobilising investment, supporting industrial decarbonisation and delivering broader economic, environmental and community benefits.
Throughout the year, the Carbon Market Institute has been engaged in two major policy reform processes central to the future of Australia's carbon market.

The Safeguard Mechanism Review has been a key focus, with our Safeguard Mechanism Taskforce contributing industry expertise through extensive consultation. This work included our Safeguard Symposium, a dedicated roundtable in Canberra and CMI's formal submission, establishing a strong foundation for continued engagement in 2027. CMI also contributed to the CCA's Annual Progress Advice, with a particular focus on the SGM Review.

CMI contributed to the proposed ACCU Scheme reforms (Integrity and Transparency), including submissions to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water and the Senate Committee inquiry, alongside participation in the parliamentary hearing. This reform process is expected to remain a priority in 2027.

CMI has continued to engage constructively across the political spectrum, building understanding of how the ACCU Scheme and Safeguard Mechanism support decarbonisation while maintaining industry competitiveness. Equally important is demonstrating the broader benefits of high-integrity carbon markets, from regional economic development and improved agricultural productivity to First Nations economic self-determination and nature repair.

CMI members remain central to our efforts, contributing expertise and perspectives through our working groups, taskforces and broader industry engagement.

Our flagship Australasian Emissions Reduction Summit in Adelaide was another highlight, alongside the Carbon Farming Industry Forum, Safeguard Symposium and Singapore Carbon Market & Investor Forum, strengthening industry connections across Australia and the Asia-Pacific.

A defining milestone was the launch of CMI's new Strategy to 2030, setting a clear direction for our work and our contribution to Australia's climate and nature ambitions. Looking ahead, CMI remains committed to constructive policy engagement, market integrity and collaboration to strengthen Australia's carbon markets and support investment in meaningful climate outcomes.

On behalf of the CMI team, I thank our members, sponsors, partners, and broader stakeholder community for their continued engagement and support.

Dr. Sasha Courville
CEO, CMI



CMI's 2026 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.

2026 in numbers

125 Member Organisations	**1.9k** Event Participants	**37** Working Group & Taskforce Meetings
33 ACI Code Signatories	**19.5k** LinkedIn Followers	**17** Research & Policy Outputs
150k Active Website Users	**500** CMI Media Mentions	**903** Member Meetings

Our five areas of industry impact

1. Integrity & Best Practice

ACI Code operation · ACCU reform · Standards · Nature markets

9 Working Groups

2. Research & Insights

Carbon + Nature · International Updates · CMI Member & Industry Updates

5 Research Outputs

3. Education & Capability

Masterclasses · Courses · Seminars · International capacity building

83 Participants Reached

4. Advocacy & Policy

Government engagement · Submissions · Policy priorities · Market development · Safeguard Mechanism

60 Policy Engagements

5. Industry Development & Inclusion

Indigenous engagement · Demand Side Integrity
Industry partnerships · Method development ·Taskforces · Roundtables

31 Projects, Partnerships & Resources

2026 CMI Activites

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

Currently there are 125 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 member engagement in 2026 with a focus group on Demand side integrity and we brought the CEOs of carbon developers together for periodic meetings throughout 2026, and this will be formalised on a quarterly basis for 2027.

- Delivered a number of new educational events including the Minter Ellison Legal Seminar on Directors' Duties and Environmental Markets and CMI-BSI Net Zero Best Practice Masterclass to educate corporate entities on the evolution of key policy and frameworks.

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

2026 CMI Activites

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 53 media releases including on key topics such as Safeguard Mechanism, ACCU Scheme, COP31 announcement and corporate transition, and achieved over 500 CMI mentions across all media platforms
- Built LinkedIn followers to reach over 19,500 with increasing engagement and increasing website visitors
- Presented at industry events including:
  - Korean Global Carbon Market Investment Forum
  - Monash Business School Seminar on Safeguard Mechanism in Practice
  - Griffiths University: Accessing Climate Finance
  - Trackchanges podcast
  - Climate Investor Forum
  - ALCA's Conservation Finance Intensive
  - Sustainability Business Live
  - Global AgInvesting Australia
  - NAILSMA Reimagining Conservation Forum

2026 CMI Activites

- Expanded events offering, to engage and educate existing and prospective members, media and a broad range of delegates:
    - Carbon Industry Farming Forum, Fremantle: **405 attendees**
    - Carbon Market & Investor Forum, Singapore: **160 attendees**
    - Safeguard Mechanism Symposium, Sydney: **89 registrations**
    - Australasian Emissions Reduction Summit, Adelaide: **over 500 attendees**
    - COP30 Symposium, Melbourne: **61 attendees**
    - Carbon Conversations: **650 registrations**
    - MinterEllison Legal Seminar: Greenwashing and Directors Duties: **17 attendees**
    - CMI-BSI Net Zero Best Practice Masterclass: **19 attendees**
    - 2 Safeguard Mechanism Roundtables: **17 Perth and 25 Canberra attendees**

- COP31 engagement including:
    - Hosting a panel session at the Australian Pavilion on Investing in Climate and Nature, participated in peer discussions and observed negotiations
    - Co-hosting the Australian Ministerial Networking Function (with Clean Energy Council)





2026 CMI Activites

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

- Advocated clear policy opportunities for Government in the 2026 pre-budget submission
- Shaped the public discourse on use of ACCUs and industrial decarbonisation with the publishing of the Safeguard Mechanism priorities briefing paper prior to DCCEEW's consultation paper.
- Continued to shape market-leading guidance on credible carbon market engagement through cross-industry transition planning working group spearheaded by ClimateWorks Centre and contribution to the ACCC consultation on emissions claims.
- Clearly articulated the case for a Government backed demand-side integrity framework to support the voluntary market and associated co-benefits

Key Consultations

- Nature repair markets methods and settings
- ACCU method development and amendments
- ACCU scheme reform including senate enquiry
- Safeguard Mechanism reform

2026 CMI Activites

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

- Advocated for the ACCU Scheme Reform and Transparency Bill to be passed at the Senate Inquiry.
- Supported the development of high-integrity ACCU Scheme and Nature Repair Market methods through submissions on the INFM, ILFM, SOC and Protect and Conserve methods. CMI convened member working groups and taskforces to inform these submissions and facilitate industry dialogue.
- Engaged with project developers and Indigenous stakeholders to identify skills gaps and develop recommendations to strengthen education and training opportunities across the carbon sector, contributing to a report commissioned by Powering Australia.
- Facilitated ACCU site visits for government, and other stakeholders through the project showcase and event site visits to Tasmania, Western Australia and South Australia.
- Represented the industry on method-related stakeholder reference groups and committees.

2026 CMI Activites

5. Developing domestic and international policy for scalable climate action

- Strengthened Asia Pacific presence and regional network through engagement and collaboration, including ongoing MOU with IETA.

- Hosted a Roundtable in Singapore on Australia's role in International Carbon Markets.

- Official Observer organisation at COP31 and held events including Ministerial Networking Reception.

- 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.

- Developed a report on “Optimising Australia's Strategic Role in International Carbon Markets”.

Looking ahead

- Priorities for 2027 will focus on implementing CMI's new organisational strategy, centred on three outcome pillars: A Durable Carbon Market, Growing Nature Markets and Strengthening Trust. These priorities will ensure the Institute remains relevant and responsive to the evolving needs of members. This will include strengthening member engagement and value, delivering relevant events, education and networking opportunities to support CMI's long-term sustainability.

- A new organisational structure is now in place, providing clearer responsibilities, improved coordination and greater accountability to support the effective delivery of CMI's strategic priorities and work programs in 2027.

- CMI will continue to contribute to the Safeguard Mechanism Review in 2027 with the support of our Safeguard Mechanism Taskforce.

- We will continue to call for the full implementation of the Chubb 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 launching Version 3 of the Code.

- Looking ahead to COP32 in 2027, CMI will build on the policy and business use cases for international carbon market linkages with key partners in the region, building off the options outlined in our international markets paper.

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



Carbon Market Institute