

## **Now or never: A climate compact for Australia**

ACT Independent Senate candidate Kim Rubenstein has called for a landmark Climate Compact to break the deadlock that has paralysed Australia's response to climate change for two decades.

Professor Rubenstein wants the next Federal Government to convene, in its first months of office, a Climate Compact that would join stakeholders in charting a strategy to at least halve emissions by 2030, and desirably cut much deeper.

"We have little time in which to catch up on two lost decades. It's now or never," Professor Rubenstein said. "We need to settle the agenda and see policies enacted in the 2023-24 Budget."

She pointed to the 1983 Prices and Incomes Accord as demonstrating the power of negotiated settlements to open the way for sweeping economic reform.

"The Accord ushered in the modern economy we know today. We now need a Climate Compact to deliver the decarbonised economy that will help avert catastrophic global warming and set us on the path to a just, sustainable and prosperous future," Professor Rubenstein said.

"Canberrans and people right across Australia are crying out for urgent action on climate change. The major parties are locked in stalemate as we endure the devastating effects of global warming, most recently the floods in NSW and Queensland and, two years ago, the Black Summer fires."

Industry, unions and the community were impatient for action and had lost faith in the Federal Government.

Professor Rubenstein believes the states, territories and local governments share the concern of business for urgent national coordination of climate action that could be achieved through a Climate Compact.

Modelling by the Business Council of Australia showed that halving emissions by 2030 was within reach for Australia – consistent with IPCC advice that there are options available now in every sector that can at least halve emissions by 2030.

"We have the choice, and it is an urgent one: unite and prosper in the post-carbon world, or fracture and perish as we extract every last bit of our fossil reserves," Professor Rubenstein said.

"We know what needs to be done. What is missing is the unifying strategy with all players locked in. There is no excuse for delay."

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