

Australia Delegation
Tufts Inquiry
18 March 2022

Australia Briefing Paper

Introduction:

Climate Change has been a topic of evolving importance in many governments. Australia has struggled and continues to struggle with the destruction of its environment due to emissions and harmful gasses being released into the atmosphere. Over the past 50 years, the number of days that broke record high temperatures has doubled, leading to many disasters. Heatwaves and droughts have become much more prominent in some areas of Australia, but in other areas, extreme rainfall and flooding is the primary concern. This climate and conditions imbalance leaves their land and people threatened by the ever-rising temperatures and average weather. Not only are droughts bad themselves, but they are also leading to massive fires, which are wiping out forests, animals, and towns. Australia has unique wildlife, and its continent is filled with many endangered species which are becoming even more threatened due to the natural disasters that are hitting their homes. Every form of life is suffering in Australia and the whole world, and people allow this to happen.

The Australian government has multiple committees and branches of officials focused on coming up with solutions or plans to reduce the risk of their environment being even more severely disrupted. They are attending global conferences with other affected countries and

working hard to lessen this crisis. Australia is looking at all of the factors that contribute to the problem and solution; global agreements, economic effects, the energy industry, and human rights and security to ensure that a solution is being worked towards to save their environment.

Background:

It is unclear who first discovered the island of Australia. Some historians guess that China landed on it before documented history due to China's control of Southeast Asian waters during the 15th century. Muslim settlers established a settlement just 300 miles away in Southeast Asia, and some could have wandered onto the continent accidentally. Portugal also may have discovered it accidentally during their many voyages, with evidence of enslaved people being supplied from Melville Island and Island off the main coastline of Australia. Spanish Viceroy may also have discovered it in their attempts to find new land. However, the Dutch had the first documented landing in Australia when Dirk Hartog accidentally stumbled upon it while sailing his ship, the Eendracht, in 1616. He and his crew explored nearly 1000 miles of the southern coast. The Dutch did not continue exploring for much longer, and Britain soon took over. William Dampier, a British buccaneer, sailed down to the western coast and examined it for another 1000 miles in 1699. However, when he returned to Britain, he was critical of the land and its people, so Britain did not send another ship until the middle of the 18th century. Britain wanted to see its empire expand to the east, and they supported several voyages to Australia. In 1770, Captain James Cook dubbed the land he had arrived on "New South Wales." This name would stick through modern times. Cook led several voyages, which would lead to some settlements being made, but did not fully explore the continent. Australia officially

became an English colony in 1788 and would stay that way, mainly as a penal colony, until 1901, when it gained its independence.

When James Cook wanted to set up a colony in Australia, he had to set a boundary between New Holland and New South Wales. In 1788 the borders of the two territories were established in Cape York. New South Wales acquired the east side of the island, which also included Tasmania and New Zealand at the time. Later, in 1803 new settlements were made so the French could not make any colonies. Also, convicts from New South Wales would go to Van Diemen's land, modern-day Tasmania. Then in 1825, Van Diemen's land became a separate colony, and New South Wales expanded its border into New Holland so they could include the new community. Britain settlers started to move into New Holland land and make settlements along the Swan River in 1829. In 1831, Britain took over New Holland and named it western Australia. Then in 1836, a bit of the southern part of New South Wales became a new colony called South Australia. Since there was a lot of settlement in the northern part of New South Wales, a brand new territory was made called Northern Australia in 1847. However, this colony failed, returning to New South Wales in 1849. One aspect of New South Wales was made up of escaped convicts from former Van Diemen's land, now called Tasmania, since 1850. This part of New South Wales split and became a separate colony called Victoria in 1851. Still, the eastern side of South Australia started to make settlements northeast in New South Wales territory. The settlements became a separate colony in 1859 called Queensland. From 1862 to 1863, Queensland expanded west, taking away the northern part of New South Wales and making it part of Southern Australia. During the federation in 1901, Australian colonies looked a little different than it was initially. The territories now had western Australia in the west, Southern Australia in the middle, Tasmania as the southeastern island, Queensland in the mid and

northeast, Victoria in the southeast, and New South Wales in the east. Later in 1911, the northern part of Southern Australia became Northern Territory.

Australia was technically an independent country in 1901. However, it did not completely expel the British legal authority from the federal government until 1986. While it is independent, there are still some vestiges of British influence even today. An example is that Australia is still a constitutional monarchy with the English royal family, currently with Elizabeth II at the head, as the Monarch. However, in the United Kingdom, the royal family has no actual political power and simply serves as a figurehead and a cultural symbol. The political system that Australia uses is a parliamentary democracy. In which a parliament led by a Prime minister makes the laws for the country. Unlike for the United States president, there are no term limits for prime ministers. In Australia, prime ministers are not voted for directly by the people. Instead, they are voted for by members of parliament, meaning that the prime minister is usually the leader of the political party, or coalition, that is in power at the time. The current Australian prime minister is Scott Morrison of the Liberal Party of Australia.

Key Points

Global Governance:

1. Coming up with the right investments that are not only effective, but that are also able to be spread around the whole world.
2. How Australia is working with other nations and climate committees in order to find an attainable plan for reducing their hurtful impact on the climate change crisis.

Migration:

1. How Australia has been responding to migration caused by climate change in regards to their wild life, and climate-refugees

Security:

1. The amount of security necessary to get into see Australia
2. How Australia is responding to the influx of refugees brought on by climate change

Energy:

1. How Australia is continuing to lower emissions to reach its goals.
2. Australia's change in economy due to attempting to incorporate more fossil fuels.

Agriculture/Food Security:

1. How important the reduction of carbon emissions are to food security around the world
2. How we plan to deal with increased natural disasters and radical weather patterns that will affect how much food can be grown and where crops can be planted

Economic Development:

1. The amount Australia has spent to prevent and reduce global warming issues
2. The effect global warming has had to the economy

Justice and Human Rights

1. Indigenous and aboriginal rights as Australia has large population and climate change has the largest effect on their lifestyle which is deeply rooted in their connection to the land
2. Climate change refugees from local small island states

Issues

Global Governance- Maria Mironov

Australia is becoming increasingly destroyed by the climate crisis which has become a top issue all around the globe. With their unique wildlife and need to preserve the environment,

wildfires and increasing temperatures have been leading to the deterioration of their ecosystems. As a result, the government has been attempting to make significant changes to its climate change reduction plans as a nation and on a global scale.

The Australian government is a representative democracy with a prime minister and a parliament. In addition to the main government, they have special committees such as the Clean Energy Regulator Committee and the Climate Council. Once citizens have turned 18, they can vote for parliament positions once every three years. The Indigenous population received the right to vote in federal elections in 1962, which was a step necessary for having fair representation in their society. Even though Indigenous people have the right to vote, they have to fulfill a lot of requirements in order to keep that right, and a large percentage of the Indigenous community is not as aware of their right to vote, making it difficult for them to have a say in political decisions. The Australian government is split into many different parties, but the three main ones are the Australian Labor Party, the Liberal Party, and the Nationals. As a whole, the government's prime issue recently has been reducing their effects on harmful emissions, mainly coming from their economy.

Australia is affected tremendously by climate change and is on close watch because of its extremely unique wildlife and environment. The nation is committed to global cooperation centered around finding an effective plan to battle the climate crisis. Australia is a crucial part of the United Nations and has been active in world affairs. They are one of the six highest financial contributors when it comes to the UN, and in 2019 they contributed 61,619,804 dollars (US dollars) to support the United Nations. Australia is hosting a pavilion at the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow, where they bring representatives from around the world for the COP26 conference. One of that conference's main goals is to reduce emissions by 26-28 percent by

2030. Australia is dedicated to protecting the most vulnerable communities, especially islands and the Indo-Pacific region, that are struck with the most disaster when it comes to the climate.

In order to achieve these goals, the government has signed the Paris Agreement, which was made in 2016 and aimed to strengthen the global response to climate change crises and create a global solution that requires immediate action. Additionally, the nation follows the Kyoto Protocol, which recognizes highly developed countries, such as Australia, that play a significant role in high levels of GHG emissions and need reduction strategies. Australia, a high producing and globally involved economically, has high contributions to emission levels. Their work has been centered around making significant changes to the economy to make it more environmentally friendly. Australia also attended the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), highlighting each participating country's nationally determined contributions (NDC). Australia's NDC is committed to net-zero emission by 2050, which has proven to be a challenging task that some people may say is too far-fetched.

Although Australia is taking action globally by signing agreements and being an active member of the United Nations and other organizations and committees that are centered around finding a global action plan to battle climate change, they have received a ton of criticism on their supposed lack of contribution. Since their country and surrounding islands have been heavily hit by disaster, critics say Australia should have been more involved because of its vulnerable state. Their government didn't sign an agreement called the "Global Coal to Clean Power Transition Statement" which is the commitment of 23 countries to lessen coal power in the economy. Recognizing that Australia largely depends on coal for their economy, they decided not to sign the agreement, basically not working towards investing in new coal power plants. Australia has also been criticized for its plans for net-zero emissions by 2050. While that is a step

in the right direction, many officials believe that the goal is unattainable. The Australian government is only setting this goal to seem further ahead than other countries.

That being said, Australia continues to invest in new technologies to lower emissions. They have also partnered with their Indo-Pacific neighbors to reduce their impact on the climate crisis. By creating more recent and more sustainable technologies and making them accessible to the economy, Australia creates a long-term investment to reduce emissions over time. For example, they have invested 1.4 billion dollars into building a more extensive hydrogen industry, which will replace natural gasses in homes, generate electricity for modes of transportation, and store energy for remote communities. The hydrogen industry is one of the more attainable goals Australia has put in place because of their abundance of natural resources available to make clean hydrogen and eventually supply the world with it.

With investments in sustainable energy, new technologies with great potential, and involvement in global conversations and agreements, Australia is a significant worldwide player and contributor to plans of reducing the impact they make on the climate crisis. If they continue to work with surrounding nations and increase their global effect, their economy will become more sustainable and will be able to keep their unique wildlife alive.

Justice and Human Rights - Kate Hammerness

Australia's position in the world has allowed it the freedom to develop using technologies with environmental impact. However, significant investments from developed countries like Australia are necessary as the fight against climate change continues. It is to be noted that Australia's economy is incredibly energy-intensive. The Australian government states this because it ought to be considered when calculating targets for Australia's emission reductions in

the future. Australia is committed to international treaties such as the Paris Agreement, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the Kyoto Protocol. The Department of Industry, Science, Energy, and Resources, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, as well as the Department of Agriculture, Water, and Energy negotiate and meet the country's obligations under international climate change agreements.

Australia is committed to responding to the needs developing, and the most impacted countries, have surrounding climate change issues. They are aware that they are a part of the Global North and because of this, are especially focused on assisting those countries most vulnerable to climate change. Australia has concern for these countries and their collective citizens and is active in offering adjustment as well as mitigation strategies for such groups. Australia is guided by the 1992 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change's (UNFCCC) guidelines around relationships with such countries. Articles of this convention dictate that considerations must be made around parties that bear disproportionate burdens of climate change, and that developed countries will 'take all practicable steps to assist such parties. Australia is aware that the Framework Convention and the Kyoto Protocol dictate that such developed countries ought to take steps, like Australia has done, to manage their emissions.

Australia is consistently working to respond to the effects of climate change. Australia's department of industry, service, energy, and resources manages and delivers the government's policies regarding climate change. Australia works to reduce emissions with: technology-led approaches, developing policies, encouraging and supporting industries, businesses, and consumers to reduce emissions, managing greenhouse gas emissions, forming partnerships to reduce emissions, and meeting obligations under the Paris Agreement. Australia's Emissions Reduction Fund or ERF also plays a role in mitigating climate change by providing incentives

for organizations and individuals looking to reduce their emissions. Now the main mechanism Australia utilizes to reduce the effects of climate change, the ERF has a widespread impact on the country. The Australian government catalogs emissions and observes the various sectors from which they come. Various climate advisory bodies also assist the government in meeting its climate policies and goals.

Australia is actively working to assist local countries that bear the burden of climate change. In partnership with the North Pacific, they meet governments' needs to build resilience against climate change and disaster events. As the effects of climate change intensify, these areas will require external support to mitigate the crises. Australia pledged in 2019 to spend \$500 million over the course of five years with aims to support climate change action and resilience against natural disasters that come with climate change in the Pacific region. This exceeds their 2016 commitment of \$300 million over 4 years in support of the Pacific. Australia continues to be in financial and domestic support of the Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, Fiji, Kiribati, and Tuvalu, among others - they are committed to assisting in climate-related disaster relief and being proactive in combating these disasters in such areas. Australia has also set aside, from the aid budget, \$140 million to encourage projects in the Pacific and South-East Asia that support low-emission investments and climate resilience.

Australia continues to be assisting the Global South, in particular, Small Island states neighboring Australia in the Indo-Pacific region. Australia is guided in their support efforts by both the Climate Change Action Strategy as well as The Indo-Pacific Carbon Offsets Scheme. Australia's development assistance program, the Climate Change Action Strategy, works with objectives to support other regions in tackling climate change. Partnering with countries to make the best use of their assistance, Australia aims to support countries in adapting to climate change,

promoting lower-emissions shifts, and creating innovative solutions to climate change. Australia has doubled its financial commitment for assisting developing countries to combat climate change to \$2 billion over 5 years starting in 2020.

Australia is a diversely populated country willing to accept well-assessed asylum seekers. Of Oceania's countries, Australia is the region's lead in migrant populations. 7.5 million people in their population are migrants, of the 25 million population, or about 30%. Of these migrants, many of their countries of origin are countries of the Global South, the homelands that are most distressed by climate change. Such countries that fall in the top 10 countries of birth for Australian migrants are New Zealand, the Philippines, South Africa, Vietnam, Malaysia, and Sri Lanka. As an active member of the U.N. Australia is taking notice of the recent ruling that states "if you have an immediate threat to your life due to climate change, due to the climate emergency, and if you cross the border and go to another country, you should not be sent back because you would be at risk of your life, just like in a war or in a situation of persecution". Australia is also aware that it's currently experiencing higher temperatures, extreme droughts, and fire as well as rising sea-level threatening Australian homes.

Agriculture and Food Security - Thomas Hodge

The fact that Australia is an Island and that it is home to many different climates inside its massive area puts the nation in an interesting position regarding food security. With some regions supporting perfect weather conditions for agriculture and others being impossible to plant in, farmers tend to stick to a few specific areas of the continent to grow their crops. This makes Australia's agriculture industry highly dependent on these select regions, making it susceptible to radical weather patterns resulting from climate change. Despite this, however, the agriculture

industry manages to produce enough products to not rely on imports to support the nation's food supply. The items that it does depend on imports for are generally not grown on Australian soil.

Australia uses nearly 45% of its land for agricultural purposes. These agricultural purposes include growing crops like wheat, sorghum, oats, barley, corn, triticale, rice, sunflowers, peanuts, soybeans, canola, legumes, cotton, sugarcane, fruits, and tobacco, and raising livestock including cows, pigs, chickens, and goats to produce animal products like beef, pork, poultry, eggs, wool, mutton, and milk. Because Australia does not need all that it has to sustain itself, many products are exported to other countries. For example, 90% of textile materials, including wool and cotton, are exported, 80% of wheat is exported, 50% of barley and rice is exported, 40% of beef and legumes is exported, 30% of dairy products, including milk and eggs, are exported, and 20% of all fruits and vegetables grown are exported. In total, 70% of all agricultural products produced in Australia are exported.

Regarding how much Australia relies on its Agricultural industry to sustain its economy, the industry itself is largely unimportant, accounting for only 3% of the economy being dependent on it. In 2018, a census showed that around 318,000 people were employed in the agriculture industry in Australia, which accounts for around 2.5% of the national workforce. Most of the products needed to feed the nation are taken from the total supply before exporting the rest, making a decent profit.

As stated before, Australia can produce mostly enough products for its citizens that it does not need to import a large number of products. As a result, around 85% of the national food usage is domestically produced, while 15% is imported.

As for food security, Australia does reasonably well for itself. Having most of the nation's food produced domestically means that farmers can take it directly from the farm to the

plate. It is estimated that 87-96% of the total population is food secure (4-13% food insecure), a more significant percentage than the United States, which has a larger portion of land used for agricultural production. However, it is essential to mention that Australia's enormous indigenous peoples are less food secure, with only 68-78% being food-safe (22-32% food insecure).

Australia is no stranger to weather conditions. Every year, weather conditions vary radically, which often affects how much can be produced from the agriculture industry. Farmers have to prepare for certain types of weather that may damage their crops. However, being familiar with strange weather patterns does not negate the dangers of climate change; Australia's agriculture industry is still at very high risk. The already extreme weather conditions will become more powerful, and seasons of good weather will be shortened until they are non-existent. In addition, Australia is at a very high risk of wildfires, which have already damaged and destroyed so many crop fields. As well as being a danger to people and property, wildfires started by hotter and drier weather conditions will spread quickly through farm-heavy areas and cause a significant problem of food shortages around the country. Moreover, changing climates pose the danger of killing off pollinators, some of which are not good at adapting to such extreme changes. These pollinators are crucial to the survival of every crop grown in Australia. If they are killed, the Australian ecosystem will completely crumble, with plants dying first, then herbivores, then predators, and so on. So while Australia has seen strange and varying weather patterns before, it is at just as high risk from climate change as any other nation.

ENERGY - Ana Moumoutjis

Australia is mostly energy independent as it is a major producer of many energy resources such as coal, liquified natural gas, and uranium. Australia's resource sector makes up

over 8 percent of Australia's economy. Although Australia exports some crude oil and petroleum, it is the main energy resource that they are heavily dependent on imports from other countries. Australia imports crude oil mostly from Singapore and South Korea, and the remaining from Japan, China, and India.

Energy in Australia has been a source of cooperation. Australia imports and exports resources for energy to and from many countries, especially in the Indo-Pacific region. Australia has become the leader in liquified natural gas exports to Japan, and exports to many countries such as China and South Korea.

As of 2019-2020 fossil fuels, mostly coal, oil, and natural gas, make up approximately 93% of Australia's energy usage. Oil, crude oil, and liquified petroleum gas (LPG) accounted for the largest part of that share at 37%. Coal makes up approximately 28.4% of the share. Liquified natural gas (LNG), similar to coal, accounts for 27.4% of the fossil fuel energy usage. Renewable energies are not yet a main use of energy, as it is the remaining 7% of energy usage.

Australia has pledged a 26% cut on the emissions in 2005 by 2030 and 0 emissions by 2050. Furthermore, Australia has placed an investment of more than \$20 billion in "low emissions technology", which consists of lower solar energy costs, wind power, and replacing coal plants with renewable energy plants. Australia has no intentions to use nuclear energy in the future, as it was banned in 1998. Australia has been recognized by the International Energy Agency and the World Energy Council as potentially the highest hydrogen producer in the world, so in the future, Australia can produce, use, and export low emissions of hydrogen. The majority of Australia's electricity from renewable energy comes from hydro energy in places like New South Wales and Tasmania where rainfall is plentiful; however, a major expansion of hydro energy is challenging in Australia due to dry climate and high evaporation rates. In the near

future, wind energy is expected to become Australia's largest source of renewable electricity. Wind energy is already expanding along -western, south-western, southern, and south-eastern - coastal regions of Australia. In 2020 alone, 3.3 gigawatts of new wind and solar power were plugged into the nation's grid. Ocean energy, although not highly developed, is another option for renewable energy in Australia, since Australia has great wave energy along its western and south-western coastline and its best tidal resources on the northern margin.

Australia's economy has a very major link to fossil fuels, as it is one of the largest exporters of fossil fuels, specifically as it is the leading coal exporter in the world. For Australia, coal is a \$50-billion-a-year export industry. Coal accounts for three-quarters of Australia's total energy export, which is worth around \$80 billion. The coal mining industry in Australia provides jobs for over 50,000 miners. Australia has the potential to be one of the leading producers of liquified natural gas.

Although renewable energies currently do not play as large of a role in economics for Australia as fossil fuels, there are some that are growing industries that could be the future for Australia's economy. Australia has a large amount of Uranium resources and it holds around 46% of the world's uranium resources (all production if for export). Australia exports the second (to Kazakhstan) the most amount of uranium for nuclear power in the world.

Security- Patrick Lombard

The most pressing national security threat that is currently facing Australia is China. Particularly the aggression of China in the Pacific Ocean and the South China Sea. To combat this, China has signed agreements with both Indonesia and Japan to bolster defenses in the south china sea and Southern Pacific. Australia is not currently involved in many international

conflicts; however, Australia does have 700 troops deployed in various countries in the middle east.

Climate change has made security in Australia and the entirety of Oceania very difficult. With the rising oceans surrounding it and its many wildfires, Australia is getting some of the worst effects of climate change thus far. This has really impacted security priorities as it means we must work diligently to ensure the safety of our citizens.

After World war one Australia joined the League of Nations. After World War two Australia became a founding member of the United Nations and is its twelfth largest yearly monetary contributor. While not officially part of the North Atlantic treaty organization, or NATO for short, it is in a joint partnership with the alliance. In 1951 the US, New Zealand Australia signed the ANZUS treaty that has outlined the three countries' relations ever since.

Australia has always had very secure borders in order to protect its unique ecology and maintain a safe healthy environment community. A variety of health screenings are required to travel to Australia and travelers are required to pass a character test that is intended among other things, to make sure visitors have not committed a serious crime. Among other things, you are barred from bringing fresh fruit, rice, most animals, and any living plant into Australia. These restrictions have only been heightened by the Coronavirus pandemic. After closing their borders for the majority of the pandemic Australia reopened its borders on February 21 requiring a plethora of vaccines including the Covid-19 vaccine to enter the country.

Australia believes the Pandemic has increased the need for more stringent requirements to enter Australia's borders. In Australia, you are required to take a Covid-19 test in order to enter Australia. In addition, you are required to show proof of vaccination to enter the country.

While Australia does export more than 100,000 barrels of oil per day it still imports more

oil than it exports. Australia imports mostly from Singapore and South Korea, other liberal democracies in Asia, with the middle east only accounting for about 14 percent of Australia's oil imports. Because most of Australia's oil imports come from other, like-minded liberal democracies and because Australia is mostly self-sufficient when it comes to natural gas production, energy, for the most part, has been a source of cooperation for Australia. Because most of Australia's oil is crude, with Australia only producing small amounts of oil products it exports most of its oil to refineries, most of which are in Asia in such countries as Japan and China.

Economic Development- Mikhyle Khan

Australia's economy is one of the best in the Asia Pacific region. Australia has an open market and that has increased productivity. Since Australia is an island, it has many trading groups that it is a part of. The major agreements Australia has joined are WTO, APEC, and G20. Also, Australia has free trade agreements with the U.S, Japan, Chile, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand, Republic of Korea, ASEAN, and its biggest trading partner China. Since China is so close to Australia it is 31% of all Australia's world trade. A lot of food and resources are exported out of Australia. 70% of all total products get exported out of Australia. The GDP growth rate was over 2% in both 2017 and in 2018 but Covid regressed the economy a lot. Lockdowns and people needing to be safe at home delayed the exporting and importing which makes up a lot of Australia's economy. Also people not being able to work in the mines or farms reduced a lot of productivity. Overall trading declined 13% in Australia due to Covid. Even though there was a decline, Australia bounced back and is now the 13th largest economy in the world.

Even though Australia is doing so well it has been affected negatively by climate change and natural disasters. Climate change has caused more frequent natural disasters and increased the severity of them as well. Since these natural disasters have become more frequent and severe there has been a higher homeless and unemployment rate. The unemployment rate for Australia was 5.3% in 2018 and in 2020 it became 6.5%. Also, natural disasters could cause inflation. One example of this is when tropical cyclone Yuri passed by and the price for bananas inflated by almost 1%. Even though this does not sound like a lot if the storms get worse and more frequent the inflation rate will become much higher over time. Inflation and unemployment rates are only a couple of problems out of multiple that are caused by climate change and severe weather. Annually Australia is averaged to be spending 38 billion dollars on natural disasters. Even though this is only 0.02% higher than a scenario where there are lower emissions, over the next couple of decades climate change and natural disasters would be much worse causing the cost to be much higher. It is predicted that property value will decrease by 39 billion in 2050 and 79 billion by 2060. This will only happen to 5-6% of the houses but those houses wouldn't be liveable because of all the disasters. Also, natural disasters such as droughts, bushfires, cyclones, or just the rise in temperature due to climate change will ruin agriculture. Australia's agriculture is great for the economy. Australia trades 80% of wheat, 50% of barley and rice, 40% of legumes, and 20% of fruits and vegetables. With all these droughts and bushfires starting farms would be in major trouble. For example, the Murray-Darling Basin is worth 7 billion and is half of Australia's irrigated land. Without lower emissions this land will be reduced by 41-49%, causing half of the families that work there to be unemployed. Also, if there are fewer plants being grown then the inflation rate for them is going up and the unemployment rate is going down.

MIGRATION - Isabella Raia

After Captain Arthur Phillip of Britain guided eleven fleet ships carrying convicts to the colony of New South Wales, he took that land and later founded Australia. As the times went on white colonization spread through Australia, resulting in the land of indigenous people getting taken away. That was a base for Australia wanting only white citizens in their country, and then later in 1901 once they had gained independence from Britain, Australia implemented an Immigration Restriction Act, also known as the White Australia Policy, which affected all migrants who tried to come to Australia between 1901 and 1958. The main goal of the act was to keep mainly Asian people out of the country, and for the ones who tried to enter, the government made it extremely difficult. They created a dictation test that required any immigrant who wanted to enter Australia to write down fifty words in any European language, and rather than evaluating them on what they knew, one language was chosen by the immigration officer beforehand, making the test nearly impossible for those who were trying to enter, and very few immigrants were able to pass the test. The Immigration Act of 1901, was replaced by the Migration Act of 1958, which set up visas to enter the country, and then soon after the Migration Act of 1966. This act calmed the White Australia Policy by allowing non-Europeans with specific educational and professional qualifications to apply for entry. Then later in 1973, the Universal Migration Policy was implemented and caused huge change compared to the country's previous acts. This act granted people from any country permission to apply to migrate, regardless of race, ethnicity, nationality, gender, or religion. This was the start of a culturally diverse society for Australia, and also made it so applicants would only be evaluated on their skills and ability to contribute to Australia's economy.

As more and more people started to migrate to Australia, the immigrants along with the government were faced with many difficulties. The immigrants would be harassed, and would commonly be exposed to racism and discrimination. Some also struggled with finding employment, financial difficulties due to the hardships when it came to finding a job, learning English, issues with their identity, etc. The Government had a responsibility to provide settlement support to new immigrants and those who came from refugee backgrounds, in the areas of housing, health, and education. Many Australians generally support the increase of migrants, and find great value in a culturally diverse society. However, other Australians expressed concerns regarding the social cohesion of a multicultural society, which included how they would impact economic globalization and the issue of unemployment and economic insecurity.

Global policies in Australia regarding migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers should be reformed. A lot of the policies that they already have are extremely misconstrued by some of the Australian community. Some people view these policies as sectional benefits, which most Australians do not receive, and there needs to be clearer communication about these policies from the government officials to the citizens. Social cohesion within a liberal democratic society is a two-way street, and is much harder to determine when individuals perceive cohesion and disorder in different ways.

Currently, the migration flows within Australia are flowing inward and are continuing to increase. As of 2015, their population increased 40% due to natural increase, but 60% due to overseas migration. Many migrants are moving to Australia in the hopes of securing a better life compared to what they experience in their home country, as well as to seek economic stability and relief from conflict in their homelands. Many of the migrants moving to Australia are from

Pacific Islands, and are also moving because of climate-driven issues within their countries they may be causing droughts or excessive downpour, along with other issues affecting their crops and livestock.

The Australian government signed a United Nations (UN) agreement that provided resettlement for people who were fleeing from hardships in other countries. Due to climate change issues such as water scarcity, extreme weather events, and sea-level rise, people started to flee their homes. The UN General Assembly in December of 2018 recognized that “climate, environmental degradation, and disasters increasingly interact with the drivers of refugee movements.” Some policies have provided legal advice and guidance to international communities to help protect refugees and those who have been affected by climate change, as well as commonly enhance their preparedness for displaced people who need to migrate from their homes.

Australia, along with many other countries, needs to have secured borders to prevent issues such as high rates of unemployment, poverty, homelessness, and overpopulation, but not to the extent where they are denying space to refugees who have been affected by hardships, discrimination, and climate change into their country. Climate change is a serious issue and is a valid reason for people to leave their home countries. Some people aren't able to adapt to the increasing temperatures, and those who work in the agricultural business won't be able to stay in countries with extreme weather conditions, since it will affect how their crops grow and livestock health.

Australia's migratory species listed under international agreements are protected under the Australian Government's environmental legislation, the “Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act of 1999.” One of Australia's biggest ecosystems is its coral reefs

and as the temperatures rise infectious disease outbreaks amongst them are becoming more frequent. Climate change also causes the sea level to rise which could lead to sedimentation runoff which would cover the reefs. Also, with the change of the ocean's temperature food is becoming scarce for the reefs, which lessens the dispersal of coral larvae. The wildfires that take place in Australia have been causing habitat loss and destruction for many of the species that live in their forests, and if the issues aren't properly addressed then many species will end up extinct.

Works Cited:

Introduction and Background

“Impacts of Climate Change.” *The Australian Museum*,

<https://australian.museum/learn/climate-change/climate-change-impacts/#:~:text=Australia%20is%20experiencing%20higher%20temperatures,in%20the%20past%2050%20years.>

“History of Australia.” *Encyclopedia Britannica*,

<https://www.britannica.com/place/Australia/History>

Global Governance

“Australia.” *Climate Action Tracker*, <https://climateactiontracker.org/countries/australia/>.

“Climate Change.” *Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade*,

<https://www.dfat.gov.au/international-relations/themes/climate-change.>

“COP26 Deals Offer Hope That 'the End of Coal Is in Sight'.” *NBCNews.com*, NBCUniversal News Group, 4 Nov. 2021,

<https://www.nbcnews.com/science/environment/cop26-coal-fossil-fuel-deals-rcna4548.>

“COP26 Deals Offer Hope That 'the End of Coal Is in Sight'.” *NBCNews.com*, NBCUniversal News Group, 4 Nov. 2021,

<https://www.nbcnews.com/science/environment/cop26-coal-fossil-fuel-deals-rcna4548.corporateName=Commonwealth Parliament; address=Parliament House, Canberra.>

“Home.” *Home – Parliament of Australia*, CorporateName=Commonwealth Parliament;

Address=Parliament House, Canberra, ACT, 2600; Contact=+61 2 6277 7111, 24 Apr.

2020, <https://www.aph.gov.au/>.

Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources. “Australia's Climate Change

Strategies.” *Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources*, Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources, 8 Dec. 2020,

<https://www.industry.gov.au/policies-and-initiatives/australias-climate-change-strategies>.

Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources. “Australia's Long-Term Emissions Reduction Plan.” *Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources*, Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources, 13 Oct. 2021,

<https://www.industry.gov.au/data-and-publications/australias-long-term-emissions-reduction-plan>.

Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources. “Growing Australia's Hydrogen Industry.” *Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources*, Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources, 22 Nov. 2019,

<https://www.industry.gov.au/policies-and-initiatives/growing-australias-hydrogen-industry>.

Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources. “International Climate Change Commitments.” *Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources*, Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources, 27 July 2020,

<https://www.industry.gov.au/policies-and-initiatives/international-climate-change-commitments>.

Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources. “Supporting Climate Action in the Indo-Pacific Region.” *Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources*, Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources, 31 Oct. 2021,

<https://www.industry.gov.au/policies-and-initiatives/international-climate-change-commitments/supporting-climate-action-in-the-indo-pacific-region>.

Elections and Voting in Australia - Museum of Australian ...

<http://static.moadoph.gov.au/opfgovau/media/images/apmc/docs/62-Elections.pdf>

FAIIA, Emeritus Professor Ramesh Thakur, et al. "Slaying Some Myths of Sovereignty and Intervention." *Australian Institute of International Affairs*, 29 May 2017, <https://www.internationalaffairs.org.au/australianoutlook/sovereignty-intervention-myths/>

Unfccc.int, https://unfccc.int/kyoto_protocol.

Migration

Parliament House, C. (2013, April 14).

Chapter 3 - the 'children overboard' incident: Events and initial report. Home –

Parliament of Australia. Retrieved March 6, 2022, from

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Former_Committees/maritimeincident/report/c03

Parliament House, C. (2013, February 18).

Immigration, social cohesion and national identity. Home – Parliament of Australia.

Retrieved March 6, 2022, from

https://www.aph.gov.au/about_parliament/parliamentary_departments/parliamentary_library/pubs/rp/rp9798/98rp01

Parliament House, C. (2017, May 11).

Migration-Australian migration flows and population. Home – Parliament of Australia.

Retrieved March 6, 2022, from

https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_Library/pubs/BriefingBook45p/MigrationFlows

Department of Education, M. P. (n.d.). *Roads to refuge*. Refugee settlement challenges & impact on children. Retrieved March 6, 2022, from

<https://www.roads-to-refuge.com.au/settlement/settlement-challenges.html>

Encyclopædia Britannica, inc. (n.d.). *Immigration to Australia*. Encyclopædia Britannica.

Retrieved March 6, 2022, from

<https://kids.britannica.com/students/article/immigration-to-Australia/629933>

Migratory species in Australia. Migratory species in Australia - DAWE. (n.d.). Retrieved March 6, 2022, from <https://www.awe.gov.au/environment/biodiversity/migratory-species>

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (n.d.). *Climate change and disaster displacement*. UNHCR. Retrieved March 6, 2022, from <https://www.unhcr.org/climate-change-and-disasters.html>

US Department of Commerce, N. O. and A. A. (2015, March 3). *How does climate change affect coral reefs?* NOAA's National Ocean Service. Retrieved March 6, 2022, from <https://oceanservice.noaa.gov/facts/coralreef-climate.html>

Security

“Can You Bring It in?” *Australian Border Force*, <https://www.abf.gov.au/entering-and-leaving-australia/can-you-bring-it-in/categories/food#>.

Central Intelligence Agency, Central Intelligence Agency, <https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/australia/>.

“Treaties.” *Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade*, <https://www.dfat.gov.au/international-relations/treaties>.

“U.S. Energy Information Administration - EIA - Independent Statistics and Analysis.” *International - U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA)*, <https://www.eia.gov/international/analysis/country/AUS>.

“United Nations (UN).” *Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade*, <https://www.dfat.gov.au/international-relations/international-organisations/un/united-nations-un#:~:text=Australia%20is%20a%20founding%20member,to%20the%20UN%20regular%20budget>.

Whole-of-Nation Climate-Security Risk ... - Aslcg.org, https://www.aslcg.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/ASLCG_MIA_Report.WEB_.pdf.

Energy

“Australian Energy Statistics 2021 Energy Update Report.” *Australian Energy Update2021*,

Sept.2021,

<https://www.energy.gov.au/sites/default/files/Australian%20Energy%20Statistics%202021%20Energy%20Update%20Report.pdf>.

Burns, Josh. “Renewables Will Power Australia's Economic Growth.” *RenewEconomy*, 22 June 2020, <https://reneweconomy.com.au/renewables-will-power-australias-economic-growth-40035/>.

Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources. “The Australian Resources Sector-Significance and Opportunities.” *Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources*, Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources, 13 Feb. 2019, <https://www.industry.gov.au/data-and-publications/australias-national-resources-statement/the-australian-resources-sector-significance-and-opportunities>.

“Overview.” *Overview | Geoscience Australia*, <https://www.ga.gov.au/scientific-topics/energy/overview>.

Toscano, Nick, and Mike Foley. “It's a \$50b-a-Year Export Industry. How Long until Coal's Rivers of Gold Run Dry?” *The Sydney Morning Herald*, The Sydney Morning Herald, 26 Sept. 2021, <https://www.smh.com.au/business/the-economy/it-s-a-50b-a-year-export-industry-how-long-until-coal-s-rivers-of-gold-run-dry-20210924-p58ue9.html>.

“U.S. Energy Information Administration - EIA - Independent Statistics and Analysis.” *International - U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA)*, 7 Mar. 2017, <https://www.eia.gov/international/analysis/country/AUS>.

Agriculture/Food Security

“Australia - Agriculture.” *Nations Encyclopedia*, Nations Encyclopedia, <https://www.nationsencyclopedia.com/economies/Asia-and-the-Pacific/Australia-AGRICULTURE.html#ixzz7J7CIq5yE>

Wait, Andrew, and Kieron, Meagher. “Climate change means Australia may have to abandon much of its farming.” *The Conversation*, The Conversation,

<https://theconversation.com/climate-change-means-australia-may-have-to-abandon-much-of-its-farming-166098>

Cooper, Alexandra. “‘Making Hay While the Sun Shines’ for Australian Agriculture in 2022.” *Food and Beverage Industry News*, Food and Beverage Industry News,

<https://www.foodmag.com.au/making-hay-while-sun-shines-australian-agriculture-2022/>

Economic Development

Council, Climate. “Costs of Climate Change Report - Home | Climate Council.” *Climate*

Council,<https://www.climatecouncil.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Costs-of-climate-change-report.pdf>.

“Economy.” *Central Intelligence Agency*, Central Intelligence Agency,

<https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/australia/#economy>.

“Natural Disasters Estimated to Cost Australia \$73 Billion per Year by 2060.” *IAG Insurance*, 22 Oct. 2021,

<https://www.iag.com.au/newsroom/community/natural-disasters-estimated-cost-australia-73-billion-year-2060>.

Justice and Human Rights

“About-the-Emissions-Reduction-Fund // .” *Clean Energy Regulator Crest*,

<http://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/ERF/About-the-Emissions-Reduction-Fund>.

“Australia Will Fund a \$500m Climate Change Package for the Pacific, PM to Announce.” *The*

Guardian, Guardian News and Media, 12 Aug. 2019,
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2019/aug/12/australia-will-fund-a-500m-climate-change-package-for-the-pacific-pm-to-announce>.

“Climate Change-Reducing Australia's Emissions.” *Home – Parliament of Australia*,

CorporateName=Commonwealth Parliament; Address=Parliament House, Canberra,
ACT, 2600; Contact=+61 2 6277 7111, 11 May 2017,

https://www.aph.gov.au/About_Parliament/Parliamentary_Departments/Parliamentary_Li

[brary/pubs/BriefingBook45p/EmissionsReduction.](#)

Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources. “Policies and Initiatives.” *Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources*, Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources, 6 Mar. 2022,

[https://www.industry.gov.au/topic/policies-and-initiatives#emissions-reduction.](https://www.industry.gov.au/topic/policies-and-initiatives#emissions-reduction)

Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources. “Supporting Climate Action in the Indo-Pacific Region.” *Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources*, Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources, 31 Oct. 2021,

[https://www.industry.gov.au/policies-and-initiatives/international-climate-change-commitments/supporting-climate-action-in-the-indo-pacific-region.](https://www.industry.gov.au/policies-and-initiatives/international-climate-change-commitments/supporting-climate-action-in-the-indo-pacific-region)

“Impacts of Climate Change.” *The Australian Museum*,

[https://australian.museum/learn/climate-change/climate-change-impacts/#:~:text=Impacts%20of%20climate%20change%20in,and%20threaten%20housing%20and%20infrastructure.](https://australian.museum/learn/climate-change/climate-change-impacts/#:~:text=Impacts%20of%20climate%20change%20in,and%20threaten%20housing%20and%20infrastructure)

“Migration Data in Oceania.” *Migration Data Portal*,

[https://www.migrationdataportal.org/regional-data-overview/oceania.](https://www.migrationdataportal.org/regional-data-overview/oceania)

“Migration, Australia, 2019-20 Financial Year.” *Australian Bureau of Statistics*,

[https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/population/migration-australia/latest-release.](https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/people/population/migration-australia/latest-release)

“North Pacific - Australia's Commitment to Strengthening Climate and Disaster Resilience in the Pacific.” *Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade*,

[https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/north-pacific-australias-commitment-to-strengthening-climate-and-disaster-resilience-in-the-pacific.](https://www.dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/north-pacific-australias-commitment-to-strengthening-climate-and-disaster-resilience-in-the-pacific)

Su, Yvonne. “UN Ruling on Climate Refugees Could Be Gamechanger for Climate Action.”

Climate Home News, Climate Home, 4 Feb. 2020,

<https://www.climatechangenews.com/2020/01/29/un-ruling-climate-refugees-gamechang>

er-climate-action/.

“Supporting the Indo-Pacific to Tackle Climate Change.” *Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade*,

<https://www.dfat.gov.au/international-relations/themes/climate-change/supporting-indo-pacific-tackle-climate-change>.