

# COP 31 BASE CAMP REPORT

Unlocking climate transformation  
in Australia and the Pacific:  
Shaping the potential of COP 31

---

**1 NOVEMBER 2023**  
ICC Sydney, Gadigal Land

---





# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

We respect and acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of Country, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elders past, present and emerging. We recognise their rich cultures and connections to land, sea and community. Together, we commit to building a sustainable future together.

# A MESSAGE FROM THE PARTNERS



“The way we live our lives is changing with our climate. This is not just about environment groups or energy transitions; our communities are already facing unprecedented challenges. When we engage charities and not-for-profits, we reach deep into communities, and that is exactly what is needed if we hope to respond to climate change. COP 31 Base Camps are an invitation, an opportunity for all of us to connect with and empower our communities to shape our own futures. I encourage every charity and not-for-profit in Australia, the Pacific, and around the world to be part of not only setting the agenda but taking ownership of how we and the world react to climate change and its impact on every one of us.”

**David Crosbie**

Chief Executive Officer, Community Council for Australia



“The formal offer of Australia to host COP 31 in partnership with Pacific Nations presents a unique opportunity to host a successful COP that advances needed action on climate change and the standing climate interests of the region. A successful COP can include the COP agreement, side agreements by some governments, action by businesses and community groups, raised public support and increased awareness, and benefits to the region – and, ideally, all these together ensuring success. The outreach of Australia and the Pacific Nations globally from its governments, societies, businesses, and knowledge institutions can be very influential in the context of international climate action and agreements. COP 31 Base Camps assure that we collectively plan and act well in advance of hosting of a COP, allowing for a broader set of goals to be pursued to maximise effective action on climate change at scale.”

**Imogen Butler**

Manager, The Climate Reality Project - Australia & Pacific



“The COP 31 Base Camp showcased the essential roles of First Nations and the Pacific diaspora in guiding our climate actions. Just like the impactful community projects CANA supports, the success of the upcoming Australia-Pacific COP 31 will depend on everyone's efforts - businesses, community groups, and all levels of government. Co-hosting the global climate negotiations in three years time offers a chance for us all to work together to create a climate-resilient, zero-emissions future. It's about turning our collective concern into action, and making sure every contribution adds up to a significant and positive change for our world.”

**Lisa Cliff**

Program Director, Better Futures Australia  
Climate Action Network Australia

# A MESSAGE FROM THE PARTNERS



“Solutions for climate, nature, and communities are at our fingertips and we have no time to waste in making these a reality. Having contributed the least to human-induced climate change, First Nations Peoples are bearing the worst of its impacts. Hosting an Australia Pacific COP 31 is an opportunity to ensure true collaboration and effective action. An opportunity to think differently. To learn differently. To listen differently. The first COP 31 Base Camp was one of the most inclusive climate meetings I have ever attended. It was inspiring to hear from such a diverse group of leaders on their ideas for rethinking COP. Together we can create meaningful outcomes for people, for nature, for our planet.”

**Dermot O’Gorman**

Chief Executive Officer, WWF-Australia



“The discussions at the COP 31 Base Camp clearly highlighted the need for credibility building for Australia so that there is genuine engagement and action on a global stage. The leadership, not just involvement, of our First Nations and Pacific Islands Nations, in driving the dialogue towards meaningful outcomes for all will be critical for a successful COP 31.”

**Vinita Chanan**

Director and Executive Lead, Strategic Alliances and Initiatives, UNSW



“Hosting the COP 31 in Australia and the Pacific could achieve long-term and meaningful outcomes for climate change and bring benefit for all stakeholders. However, to secure this, we will need an inclusive process to listen and learn from each other. The first COP 31 Base Camp started this process with an inspiring dialogue and sharing of diverse ideas, challenges and solutions between community groups, industry, investors and government. Insights from Indigenous and Pacific leaders, academia and innovators highlighted the urgency for collaborative action but also offered hope. Together we can shape and deliver a COP 31 that accelerates progress towards net-zero emissions, ensures the restoration of nature and supports prosperity and justice for all communities globally.”

**Tony Gourlay**

Chief Executive Officer, Impact X

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



**The opportunity to host COP 31 represents a critical moment for Australia and the Pacific to make a significant leap towards net-zero emissions, in line with the essential target of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees. If the region were to be successful in winning its bid to host COP 31, it could bring much-needed climate technology, investment and infrastructure to the region, and help to strengthen the resilience of Indigenous Peoples and regional communities against climate change.**

On Wednesday, 1 November 2023, 200 representatives from community groups, businesses, financial bodies, and academic institutions came together to build awareness of the climate COP and to work collaboratively to define the opportunities that hosting COP 31 might deliver for Australia and the Pacific.

The dialogue centred on a proposed vision for COP 31, aimed at accelerating progress towards net-zero emissions, limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees, and prioritising the restoration of nature as well as the well-being and justice of all communities.

In collaboration with the **Community Council for Australia, The Climate Reality Project - Australia & Pacific, Climate Action Network Australia, WWF** and **Impact X**, incredibly diverse voices and perspectives were brought together.

The day started with Moderator **Susan Moylan-Coombs, Gaimaragal Group**, offering an Acknowledgment of Country, followed by **Tony Boatman, David Crosbie**, and **Linh Do**, providing a structure to the day that allowed for a fluid exchange of ideas.

Keynote speaker **Howard Bamsey** shared his experience of attending many COPs around the world and **Justin Mohamed** set an inclusive tone that honoured Indigenous viewpoints - a theme that resonated throughout the day's proceedings. **Kushaal Raj, Alfred Ralifo** and **Frances Reupena** represented our Pacific neighbour's voices, imparting critical insights into the climate narrative.

Panellists **Falakiko Kiutau, Luke Brown, Nishtha Aggarwal**, and **Tishiko King** offered practical insights on executing the envisioned strategies.

Following the keynote speakers and panel, participants moved into sector expert-facilitated round table discussions focused on six focal topics: **Indigenous Inclusion, Community Led Resilience, Climate Finance and Investment, Industry, Nature Positive** and **Beyond Fossil Fuels**. A more detailed summary of the opportunities and challenges of each round table topic can be found from page 13 onwards.

## **Round Table Topline Summaries:**

The **Indigenous Inclusion** round tables discussed the opportunity to make COP 31 an Indigenous-led climate conference, emphasising the critical role of First Nations in the global climate agenda. Strengthening regional partnerships, integrating Indigenous knowledge, and establishing genuine, long-term collaborations are key opportunities that would come out of hosting, as well as equitable resource sharing. Indigenous leadership in decision-making was also highlighted as an opportunity to make a significant impact on climate action.

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



**Community Led Resilience** advocated for community-based forums to ensure inclusive representation, particularly of overlooked Pacific groups and emphasised the importance of collaborative action among grassroots organisations. They discussed accessibility, relevance and resilience, particularly for at-risk communities, and the opportunity to encourage active youth involvement. They flagged challenges including Australia's climate credibility and making climate change relevant to everyday issues such as the cost of living.

The **Climate Finance and Investment** round table discussion highlighted the crucial role of private sector participation in climate solutions, as well as the need for upskilling initiatives to address labour shortages, particularly in the Pacific. If the region were to host COP 31, Australia would need to be a key advocate for the Pacific and it would require whole-of-government coordination for long-term impact, especially in data sharing and climate finance leadership.

The **Industry** roundtable discussions advocated for broad industry involvement and the opportunity to showcase Australia's strengths in sustainable agriculture, clean energy innovation, green infrastructure and ocean conservation. Australia has a crucial role in supporting Pacific industries, particularly in tech capability building and skills development. Challenges with coordinating dialogues across industries and the region were raised.

**Nature Positive** discussed hosting COP 31 as an opportunity to incorporate First Nations principles and regenerative practices into policy-making. They highlighted increasing private sector involvement as an important step forward and raised challenges including representation disparities, the influence of the mining lobby, and the need for improved carbon accounting for events like bushfires.

The **Beyond Fossil Fuels** round tables discussed the opportunity to set the stage for a fossil-free COP. They also raised the issue of Australia's dual role as a fossil fuel exporter and a potential leader in climate solutions. Some of the challenges raised include navigating the fossil fuel industry's influence on the government and media and the sensitivities around phasing out fossil fuels. They also discussed the benefits to First Nations and Indigenous people.

**In summary**, the outcomes of the COP 31 Base Camp are more than a compilation of insights, they represent the first steps towards a blueprint for meaningful climate action tailored to the specific strengths and needs of Australia and the Pacific region.

This report encapsulates not only the collective wisdom gained from these discussions but also serves as a guiding document that will precede and inform deliberations at COP 28 and beyond. This ensures the path to COP 31 is paved with actionable commitments and inclusive, sustainable visions for our shared future.

# OPENING ADDRESS HIGHLIGHTS



“We’ve brought in a lot of individuals today to shape what the vision for COP 31 could be. That vision isn’t one that the governments of Australia and the Pacific nations are putting forward, it’s one that whether you’re representing community or industry, can be putting forward.”

---

**Linh Do**  
Director, Wattle Fellowship  
University of Melbourne

“For too long, community organisations have been on the periphery of climate discussions and yet we saw that the Koori Mail was the source of news in the Lismore floods, and after Ash Wednesday it was the community football and netball clubs that connected everyone. We need our communities to be at the heart of climate policy development.”

---

**David Crosbie**  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Community Council for Australia



“We have an opportunity to shape an ambitious COP 31 in 2026 and take a whole of society-led approach, a community-led approach, to limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees.”

---

**Tony Boatman**  
Co-Founder, Impact X

# SPEAKER HIGHLIGHTS



*“Indigenous people are amongst the first to have a direct consequence of climate change even though they contribute least to it.”*

---

**Justin Mohamed**

Ambassador for First Nations People, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

In the opening keynote address, Justin Mohamed emphasised the importance of incorporating the First Nations perspective into the COP 31 dialogue.

Connecting remotely, he reflected on his six months in the role, discussing his travels to every Australian state and territory and noting the varying regional priorities. A common thread, however, is the impact of climate change, with Indigenous communities acutely aware that their lands and ways of life are at risk of irreversible change.

Justin highlighted the resilience of Indigenous peoples, sustained over tens of thousands of years, and underscored the need for their engagement in discussions on decarbonisation, traditional land and sea management, and the development of renewable energy, cautioning that improper management could have adverse effects.

He concluded by calling for careful consideration of how to leverage some of the oldest knowledge on the planet and foster collaboration between Indigenous peoples and various stakeholders to contribute to these critical global discussions.



*“Despite the messy process, COPs are critical as they establish the global parameters for climate action and universal norms.”*

---

**Howard Bamsey**

Honorary Professor, Australian National University

Howard Bamsey shared his insights on the workings of COPs, drawing from his experience of attending around twenty COP events. He likened COPs to a marketplace where there is intense competition and participants must vie for attention and influence in a bustling environment of negotiation and dialogue.

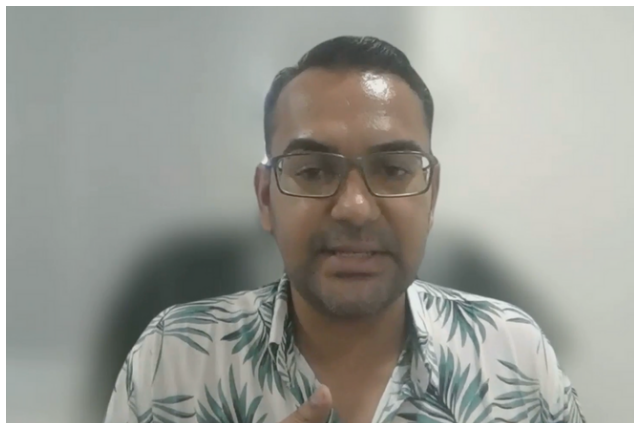
Howard recalled that earlier COPs were primarily government negotiation forums, which the public rarely attended, and compared the high drama of these negotiations to opera, complete with emotion and spectacle.

While the first week of COP typically revisits previous discussions and sees a few issues settled, it's the arrival of ministers in the second week that intensifies proceedings. The negotiation process is often fraught with resolutions commonly extending beyond the scheduled conclusion.

For Australia to host a COP, Howard reiterated the importance of collaborating with Pacific Island nations and engaging with the wider region, including New Zealand and Southeast Asia. He said that COP is a fundamental opportunity for progress in climate action.



# SPEAKER HIGHLIGHTS: PACIFIC PERSPECTIVES



*“The Pacific seas are the most vulnerable, but we get the least financing.”*

---

**Kushaal Raj**

Technical Advisor COP 28  
Fiji Government & Pacific Policy Director,  
Conservation International

Kushaal addressed the COP 31 Base Camp via video link, speaking about the role Fiji can play in shaping the agenda for future climate discussions. He highlighted the Pacific region's vulnerability to climate change and the discrepancy in financing it receives for adaptation efforts. He pointed out that Australia is an essential development partner for Fiji.

Kushaal also stressed the financial challenges faced in the region, including a 'brain drain' phenomenon, and suggested that Australia could assist by encouraging private sector participation to bolster climate resilience. He proposed that Australia has the potential to be a regional leader in climate action, advocating for the adoption of strict standards to ensure climate policies are effective.

He emphasised the importance of ocean issues for Pacific Island states, urging that these be placed at the forefront of discussions, considering the reliance of many coastal communities on marine resources. Kushaal also touched on the necessity of a loss and damage fund and the drive towards nature-positive economies as critical elements for the region's climate strategy.



*“When indigenous people are involved, there is greater success.”*

---

**Alfred Ralifo**

Senior Policy and Government Affairs Manager,  
WWF-Pacific

In this presentation delivered via video link, Alfred emphasised the value of involving Indigenous people in climate action discussions, noting their involvement often leads to greater success. Alfred pointed out the challenges of discussing climate change with Indigenous communities without addressing the on-the-ground inequities they face.

Alfred reported that these communities are eager to understand the global climate discourse, including concepts like loss and damage, climate adaptation, and climate finance. Clarity on these issues would enable them to make more meaningful contributions. Alfred identified COP 31 as an opportunity to engage closely with local communities to enhance their participation in these processes.

Alfred also noted the prohibitive costs for Pacific Island communities to participate in distant COPs, suggesting that hosting the conference closer to home in Australia, would provide a greater opportunity for Pacific Islanders to contribute effectively.

# SPEAKER HIGHLIGHTS: PACIFIC PERSPECTIVES



*“COP 31 is a platform that could empower small Pacific economies like Samoa to actively contribute to global climate solutions and limit warming to a 1.5-degree threshold.”*

---

## **Frances Reupena**

Chief Executive Officer, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Samoa

Frances discussed Samoa’s commitment to renewable energy and the importance of having an inclusive dialogue, involving the private sector, labour force, and communities to ensure a transition to a low-carbon economy. This is needed to ensure no one is left behind.

There are social challenges already emerging from this transition and there must be ongoing conversations about fostering a green economy with new employment opportunities. Frances emphasised the need to prepare Samoa’s workforce for this shift and ensure there is the infrastructure to support the change. This is evident in the current efforts to import electric vehicles, which necessitate supporting infrastructure and emergency response capabilities, that Samoa currently doesn’t have in place.

The inclusion of youth and people with disabilities in this transformation is a critical consideration for Samoa.

# PANEL HIGHLIGHTS



## Panel:

**Susan Moylan Coombs**, Founding Director, Gaimaragal Group (Moderator)

**Falakiko (Frankie) Kiutau**, Community Connections Coordinator, NSW & ACT, NSW Council for Pacific Communities

**Luke Brown**, Head of Engagement & Partnerships, Climateworks Centre

**Nishtha Aggarwal**, Financed Emissions Analyst, Climate Energy Finance

**Tishiko King**, First Nations Program Manager, Australian Communities Foundation

*“We are living off our land and oceans, in a fossil-free world where it’s transformed into a renewable, thriving society. There’s a journey to get there.”*

**Tishiko King** - in response to being asked if she could wave a magic wand.

The panel discussion brought together diverse perspectives on the impact of climate change and the urgency of climate action.

**Frankie** highlighted the human element, sharing concerns about workers from vulnerable communities who face separation from their families and the anxiety of leaving them behind, especially during natural disasters.

**Luke** addressed the shortcomings in climate diplomacy, urging for a rapid enhancement of efforts and reflective partnership to understand the collective mission and contributions of various stakeholders in driving change.

**Nishtha** focused on leadership and the dire consequences of a 3-degree temperature rise, which would force a significant portion of the world's population to adapt or flee. Nishtha highlighted Australia's natural resources, which could pivot the country from being a problem exporter to a solution exporter, and the necessity of viewing Australia and the Pacific as distinct regions with unique challenges.

**Tishiko** pointed out the critical role of Indigenous communities who have stewarded their lands and seas for millennia, especially now during a decade viewed as crucial. Tishiko mentioned the plight of frontline communities resorting to legal action due to political inaction, and the dire prospect of becoming climate refugees. Tishiko also emphasised the importance of establishing meaningful connections with First Nations peoples and considering Australia's responsibility as part of the global north.

All panellists concurred on the necessity of active change, with Frankie adding that the journey should also be enjoyable.



# ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS



**Sector experts facilitated the round table discussions focusing on six focal topics:**

- Indigenous Inclusion
- Community Led Resilience
- Climate Finance and Investment
- Industry
- Nature Positive
- Beyond Fossil Fuels

The 200-plus participants in the room from a variety of sectors and roles, engaged with three pivotal questions, confronting the challenges and delineating the opportunities that a transformative COP 31 could present for Australia and the Pacific:

- 1. What meaningful outcomes and opportunities do you see for Australia and the Pacific in hosting COP 31?**
- 2. What are the challenges?**
- 3. How can communities and organisations be effectively engaged?**

Over the following pages are the shared summaries of the round table discussions.



# INDIGENOUS INCLUSION



## Facilitators:

### Cathy Eatock

Co-Chair, Indigenous Peoples Organisations

### Rachel Sapery James

Blue Pacific Programs Manager, WWF-Australia

---

## 1. Meaningful Outcomes and Opportunities

**Opportunity for Indigenous Leadership:** This could be an Indigenous-led climate conference, a "WanSolwara COP."

**First Nations in the Global Climate Agenda:** Highlight the role of the Big Ocean Island States and the strategic importance of First Nations in the global climate agenda.

**Strengthening Regional Collaboration:** Reinforce regional partnerships, focusing on sustainable development and nature-positive economies.

**Inclusivity and Indigenous Knowledge:** COP 31 seeks to be inclusive, offering a platform for local communities to share Indigenous knowledge and locally led climate solutions.

## 2. The Challenges

**Access to Climate Finance:** Indigenous organisations, CSOs, and CBOs face challenges in accessing climate finance due to capacity, resources, and infrastructure gaps.

**Greenwashing and Black Cladding:** Issues like greenwashing and black cladding are highly concerning.

**Unintended Brain Drain:** Programs like the Pacific Labour Scheme have an unintended 'brain drain' consequence.

**Urgency for Genuine Partnerships:** There's a need for authentic partnerships with Indigenous-led organisations that involve sincere commitment, relationship-building, and long-term collaboration.

## 3. Effective Engagement of Communities and Organisations

**Equitable Partnerships and Resource Sharing:** Non-state actors in Australia and the Pacific can transform collaboration through equitable partnerships, sharing resources and joint program development while dismantling traditional power hierarchies.

**Cultural Sensitivity and Indigenous Leadership:** Programs need to respect Pacific protocols and languages, ensuring Indigenous knowledge sovereignty. Indigenous leadership should be central in decision-making processes to reflect local priorities and cultural nuances.

**Coordinated Approach to Avoid Duplication:** A coordinated strategy among Pacific-led bodies and climate networks is essential to avoid duplicative efforts, streamline actions, and maximise impact.

# COMMUNITY LED RESILIENCE



## Facilitators:

### Cindy West

Policy & Sector Support Advisor, Volunteering Australia

### David Crosbie

Chief Executive Officer, Community Council for Australia

### Dermot O'Gorman

Chief Executive Officer, WWF-Australia

### Linh Do

Director, Wattle Fellowship, University of Melbourne

### Lisa Cliff

Program Director, Better Futures Australia

---

## 1. Meaningful Outcomes and Opportunities

**First Nations Focus:** Authentic engagement of First Nations communities and drawing on their knowledge and experience is a high priority.

**At-Risk Communities:** Ensure overlooked communities and those most affected by climate share stories and lived experiences.

**Community-Based Forums:** Communities extend beyond geography to cultural, work, recreation etc. Use Community-based forums for listening and learning.

**Collaborative Action:** Foster collaboration among grassroots organisations.

**Increased Pressure on Australia:** Hosting a COP would increase pressure on Australia to take more action on climate action and establish meaningful relationships.

**Placed-Based and Virtual COPs:** Take COP to the regions and affected communities with place-based and virtual COPs.

**Community Engagement:** Need to make climate change meaningful by linking to relevant community issues such as the cost of living.

## 2. The Challenges

**Climate Credibility:** Australia continues to be a fossil fuel exporter and opening new coal mines which seriously impacts its reputation.

**Effective Communication Strategies:** Inclusive communication methods are needed and avoid overwhelming messages about climate issues.

**Collaboration and Relationship Building:** Navigating collaborative efforts and relationship building among diverse groups.

**Genuine Inclusion:** All Australian and Pacific communities must be engaged including rural, regional, urban and CALD.

## 3. Effective Engagement of Communities and Organisations

**Accessibility and Relevance:** Making events and information more accessible and relatable.

**Focus on Resilience:** While mitigation is crucial, there's a significant need to focus on resilience, particularly for at-risk communities.

**Youth Involvement:** Empower youth to be active voices in climate discussions and engage through youth symposiums.

**Measuring Volunteer Impact:** Volunteers are often leading community action. Measure recruitment and activism to gauge success.

**Engaging Vulnerable Populations:** Addressing issues including poverty and disadvantage, and ensuring women are involved.

**Action at a Local Level:** Raise awareness through religious communities and others at a local level including government to help shift the focus to a more climate-conscious mindset.

**Media Engagement:** Collaborate with media organisations engaging people in climate action through effective messaging.

# CLIMATE FINANCE & INVESTMENT



## Facilitators:

### Jeremy Liddle

Executive Director, Third Hemisphere

### Nishtha Aggarwal

Financed Emissions Analyst,  
Climate Energy Finance

### Purdie Bowden

Policy & Sustainable Finance Solutions Lead,  
Australian Sustainable Finance Institute

### Rebecca Mikula-Wright

Chief Executive Officer,  
Investor Group on Climate Change

---

## 1. Meaningful Outcomes and Opportunities

**Private Sector Involvement:** COP 31 presents an opportunity for private sector participation in climate solutions.

### Labour and Skills Shortage Solutions:

Upskilling initiatives for both existing and new workers to address labour shortages with TAFE programs and skills swapping, especially for Pacific workers in sectors like agriculture.

**Regional Advocacy by Australia:** Australia has the potential to be a key advocate for Pacific and ASEAN countries, particularly in areas like blue carbon valuation and blended finance for adaptation and resilience.

### Government Coordination for Long-Term

**Impact:** Whole-of-government coordination is key, ensuring the benefits extend beyond the event, especially in data sharing and climate finance leadership.

## 2. What are the challenges?

**Securing Support:** Ensuring continuous political will and garnering bipartisan and public support for COP 31.

**Balancing Pacific Needs:** Integrating the needs and voices of Pacific nations into the agenda while respecting the policies of Australia and other Annex I countries.

**Scalable Finance Models:** Developing and expanding private finance models suitable for the Pacific, particularly in sectors like the blue economy.

**Co-Design:** Co-design with government, private sector, and indigenous peoples.

**Ecosystem Services Valuation:** Recognise the economic value of ecosystem services in policy and financial decisions.

**Localising Finance:** Decentralised corporate finance complicates regional investments in the Pacific.

## 3. Effective Engagement of Communities and Organisations

**Pre-COP Dialogues for Engagement:** Use lead-in dialogues and events to involve communities in preliminary discussions and planning for COP 31.

**Trust-Based Relationship Building:** Focus on developing genuine, trust-based relationships at the community level, which includes innovative financing approaches.

**Knowledge Process Reform:** Address and reform extractive knowledge processes to facilitate genuine relationship building.

**Sustained Partnerships Post-COP 31:** Establish long-term partnerships with First Nations and Pacific groups, focusing on education, skills, and training that continue beyond COP 31.



# INDUSTRY

## Facilitators:

### Alice Cahill

Director of Clean Economy, Investment NSW

### Andrew Petersen

Chief Executive Officer, Business Council for Sustainable Development Australia

### Richie Merzian

International Director, Smart Energy Council

### Vinita Chanan

Director and Executive Lead, Strategic Alliances and Initiatives, UNSW

---

## 1. Meaningful Outcomes and Opportunities

### Coordinating Dialogues Across the Pacific:

Consider New Zealand's potential role in hosting pre-COP events and utilise existing Pacific events to coordinate conversations.

**Broad Industry Involvement:** Ensure that a wide range of industries can contribute and benefit.

**Enabling Pacific Industries:** Look at how industry in Australia can support industries in the Pacific with tech capability building and skills development.

**Showcasing Strengths:** Showcase Australia's unique strengths in areas like sustainable agriculture, clean energy innovation, green infrastructure, and ocean conservation, while also acknowledging and addressing areas for improvement.

**Indigenous Perspectives:** Leverage Australia's Indigenous connections to provide a unique and valuable perspective in climate discussions and solutions.

## 2. The Challenges

**Inclusive Outcomes:** Ensure COP 31 outcomes are inclusive across all Australian communities.

**Capability Building:** Strengthen Australia's capacity to effectively host COP 31.

**Addressing Pacific Challenges:** Tackle key issues affecting the Pacific region, like marine transport.

**Government Involvement:** Secure early government engagement for strategic planning.

**Fair Transition:** Ensure a fair transition for affected industries.

### Financing and Workforce Development:

Facilitate finance for innovation and focus on upskilling the workforce in sustainable sectors.

## 3. Effective Engagement of Communities and Organisations

**Early Listening and Dialogue:** Begin engagement with active listening and dialogue well in advance to understand diverse needs.

**Setting Clear Expectations:** Clearly define the goals of COP 31 and the expectations of the private sector and industry in climate action.

**Collaborative Discussions:** Foster collaboration between industry, government, and the public on climate-related issues.

**Showcasing Best Practices:** Highlight best practice case studies that demonstrate the economic benefits of climate action.

**Focus on Innovative Ideas:** Engagement around the green economy, regenerative agriculture and ocean conservation.



# NATURE POSITIVE

## Facilitators:

### Ghislaine Llewellyn

WWF Oceans Practice Deputy Lead, WWF International

### Kelly O'Shanassy

Chief Executive Officer, Australian Conservation Foundation

### Rachel Lowry

Chief Conservation Officer, WWF-Australia

---

## 1. Meaningful outcomes and opportunities for Australia and the Pacific in hosting COP 31.

**Connecting Climate and Biodiversity:** COP 31 offers a chance to merge the climate and biodiversity agendas, promote circularity, and move away from extractive culture.

**Integrate First Nations Principles:** Opportunity to incorporate First Nations principles and regenerative principles into the discussions.

### Valuing Nature Positive Initiatives:

Understanding the Task Force for Nature-related Financial Disclosure is crucial and shifting the narrative from risk to opportunity.



**Shifting Perspectives:** Changing the traditional view of environmental conservation from a cost centre to a value creator.

**Expanding Nature-Positive Market:** The goal is to increase the total financing for nature-positive solutions, aiming for a higher private sector contribution (currently about 17%) to meet the Global Biodiversity Framework funding targets.

**Community Engagement and Representation:** COP 31 aims to be the most representative COP yet, giving communities a stronger voice and holding governments accountable.

## 2. The Challenges

**PR and Lobbying Challenges:** The influence of the mining lobby and issues like a gas-led recovery pose PR challenges for Australia. Questions arise about how Australia is holding big emitters accountable, both internationally and domestically.

The issue of a gas-led recovery frame poses challenges for Australia.

**Carbon Accounting for Bushfires:** Accurately accounting for the impact of bushfires and wildfires in global carbon accounting is a significant challenge.

## 3. Effective Engagement of Communities and Organisations

**Supporting Greater Ambition:** Bring together biodiversity, climate, local community and Indigenous Peoples platforms.

**Highlighting Nature Solutions:** Focus on nature solutions for resilience, such as Blue Carbon, and address loss and damage beyond the built environment to include the natural environment is crucial.

### Exploring Complementary Pathways:

Leveraging platforms like WEF, G20, and the Canadian 'Nature Champions Network', and exploring technology transfers, especially in building and sharing Indigenous knowledge, are key.

# BEYOND FOSSIL FUELS

## Facilitators:

### Claire O'Rourke

Australia Program Director, The Sunrise Project

### Corinne Fagueret

Coordinator Pacific Calling Partnership, Edmund Rice Centre

### Heidi Lee

Chief Executive Officer, Beyond Zero Emissions

---

## 1. Meaningful outcomes and opportunities for Australia and the Pacific in hosting COP 31.

**Increasing Awareness:** The event could increase awareness of Australia's role as both a fossil fuel exporter and a potential leader in climate solutions.

**Fossil Free COP:** Set the stage for a Fossil Free COP - transition from a climate contributor to a leader in climate solutions.

**Attracting Investments:** The international focus on Australia could attract investment and tech innovation.

**Benefit First Nations Peoples:** Transition away from fossil fuels to renewables must benefit First Nations and Indigenous peoples.

## 2. Challenges

**Defining Co-Host Responsibilities:** Ensuring co-hosting roles and responsibilities are defined, particularly in terms of including Pacific nations.

**Navigating Politics:** The influence of the fossil fuel industry on the government and media is a significant obstacle. The Australian government must also deal with sensitivities around phasing out fossil fuels and the impact of mineral mining on First Nations lands.

## Connecting Climate Policy with Public

**Concerns:** Linking climate change policies to the cost of living for the average Australian and avoiding the perception of an ineffective COP are crucial for public engagement and credibility.

**Greenwashing impact on trust:** The practice of greenwashing impacts trust - need to ensure genuine engagement to build trust.

## 3. Effective Engagement of Communities and Organisations

**Government Leading Collaboration:** The government needs to lead with the structure and provide unconditional resources that encourage collaboration.

**Engaging in Multilevel Governance:** For COP 31 to be transformative, Non-State Actors in Australia and the Pacific need to engage in multilevel governance, aligning policy, data, and communication strategies across federal, state, and local bodies.

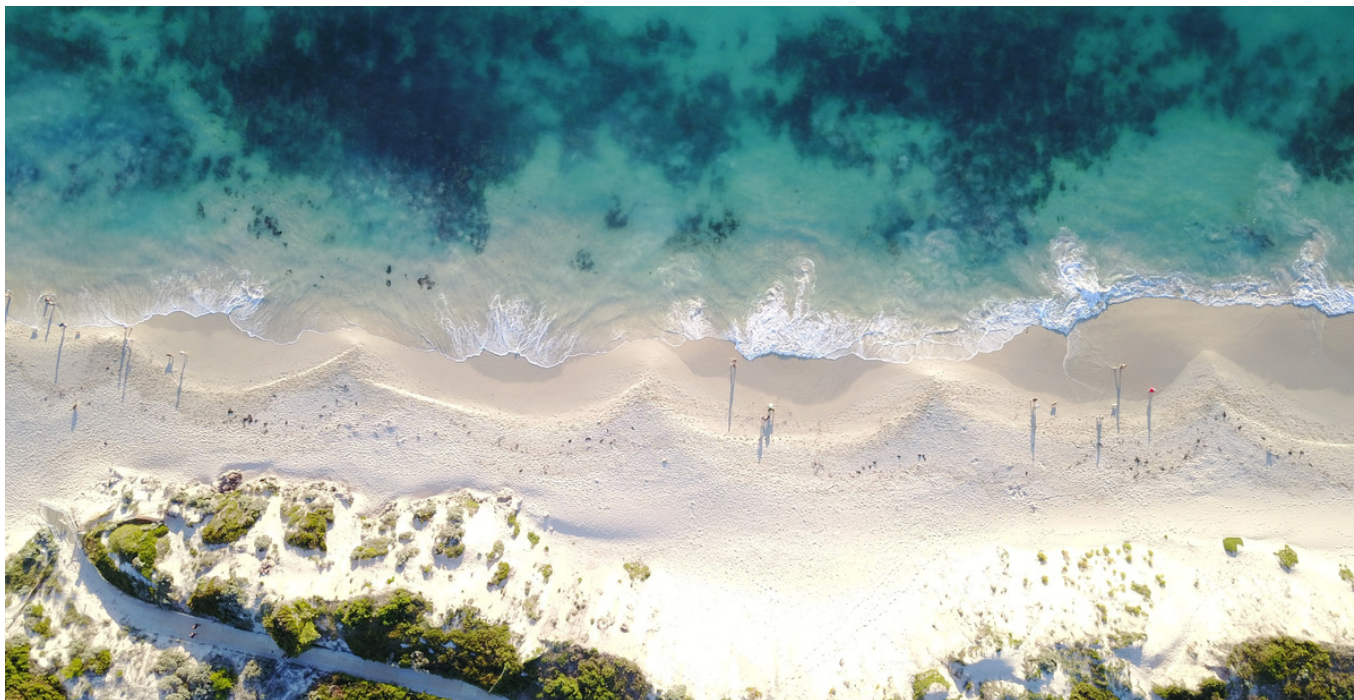
**Building Cross-Sector Networks:** Establishing a network of trusted advisors and community organisations is vital for effective engagement and sustained collaborative efforts. Inclusive stakeholder engagement, ensuring networks across the Pacific shape the agenda, is also important.

**First Nations Perspectives:** Focus on First Nations and Pacific Islanders' perspectives to form a coalition robust enough to influence the agenda towards phasing out fossil fuels and transitioning to renewable energy.





# SOME FINAL WORDS



“This is the first time that we’ve done this and it’s one of the biggest COP 31 conversations we’ve had to date. So, where to from here? The work starts when we leave this room. For some, we are already on the journey and for others it’s the start of the journey.”

---

**Linh Do**

Director, Wattle Fellowship  
University of Melbourne

“Hear our voices. If you are born on this land, you belong to this land. You have a responsibility to look after this land. Walk beside us on the journey. If we do this right, COP 31 can shine a light on this world.”

---

**Susan Moylan-Coombs**

Founding Director, Gaimaragal Group

# THANK YOU

## PARTNERS



## SUPPORTERS



Indigenous Peoples Organisation



## PHOTOGRAPHY BY:

Darcie Collington.