

**AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT CLAIM:  
20% REDUCTION IN  
EMISSIONS**



*In the last 15 years.*

**MISLEADING**



**ACTUAL SITUATION:  
EMISSIONS ROSE  
BY 4% IN THE REAL  
ECONOMY**

*between 2005-2019 - before  
the COVID-19 pandemic hit*

**THE REALITY**

CLIMATE ANALYTICS

**AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT CLAIM:  
WE'VE MADE GOOD  
PROGRESS IN REDUCING  
EMISSIONS**

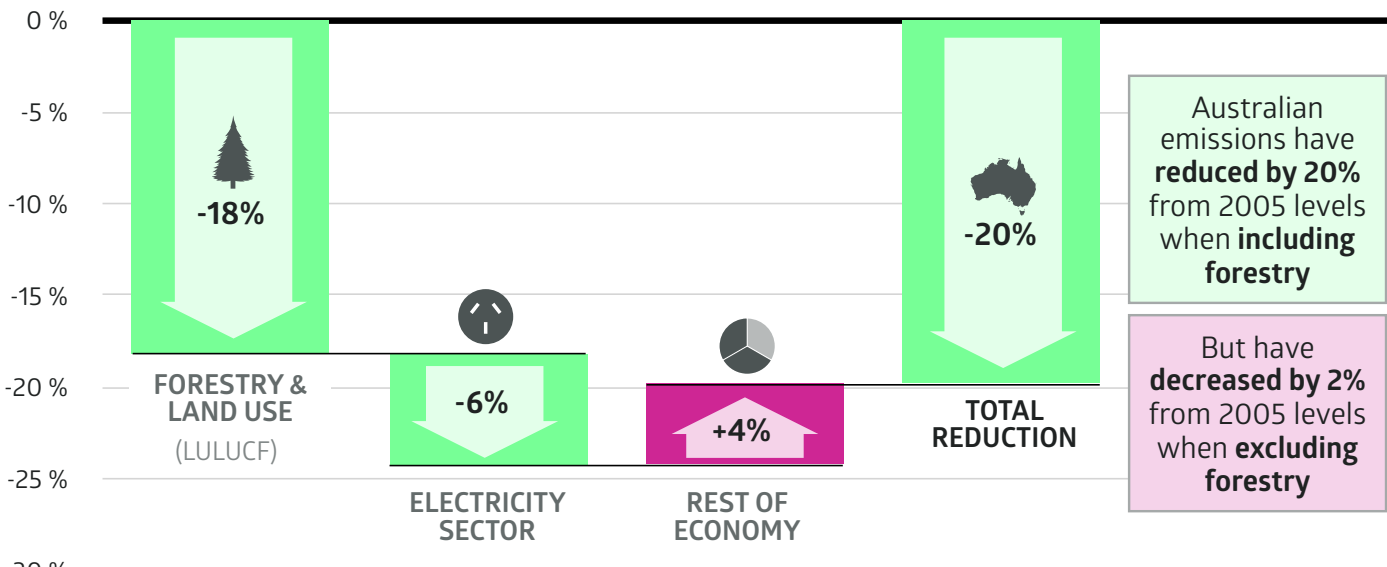
**MISLEADING**

- The Federal government has barely lifted a finger to cut emissions, with few - if any - policies in place to address them.
- Of the 20% emission reductions from 2005 to 2021, **18% came from reducing sky-high deforestation levels in 2005**, most of which had happened by 2015.
- **6% reduction came from increased use of renewables** in the power sector which the Federal government attempted to slow down – or even stop.
- **Emissions increased by 4% in the transport and industry sectors**, and the government projects these emissions will rise to 9% above 2005 levels by 2030.



*Australia's emissions 2005-2021*  
**WHERE HAVE THE REDUCTIONS COME FROM?**

CLIMATE ANALYTICS



Australian emissions have **reduced by 20%** from 2005 levels when **including forestry**

But have **decreased by 2%** from 2005 levels when **excluding forestry**

**Emissions reductions** % change from 2005 levels including LULUCF

**Caption:** This graph highlights where emissions reductions have come from, i.e. mainly a reduction in deforestation.

Source: Government projections (2021) – [https://www.industry.gov.au/sites/default/files/October%202021/document/chart\\_data.xlsx](https://www.industry.gov.au/sites/default/files/October%202021/document/chart_data.xlsx)

**AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT CLAIM:**

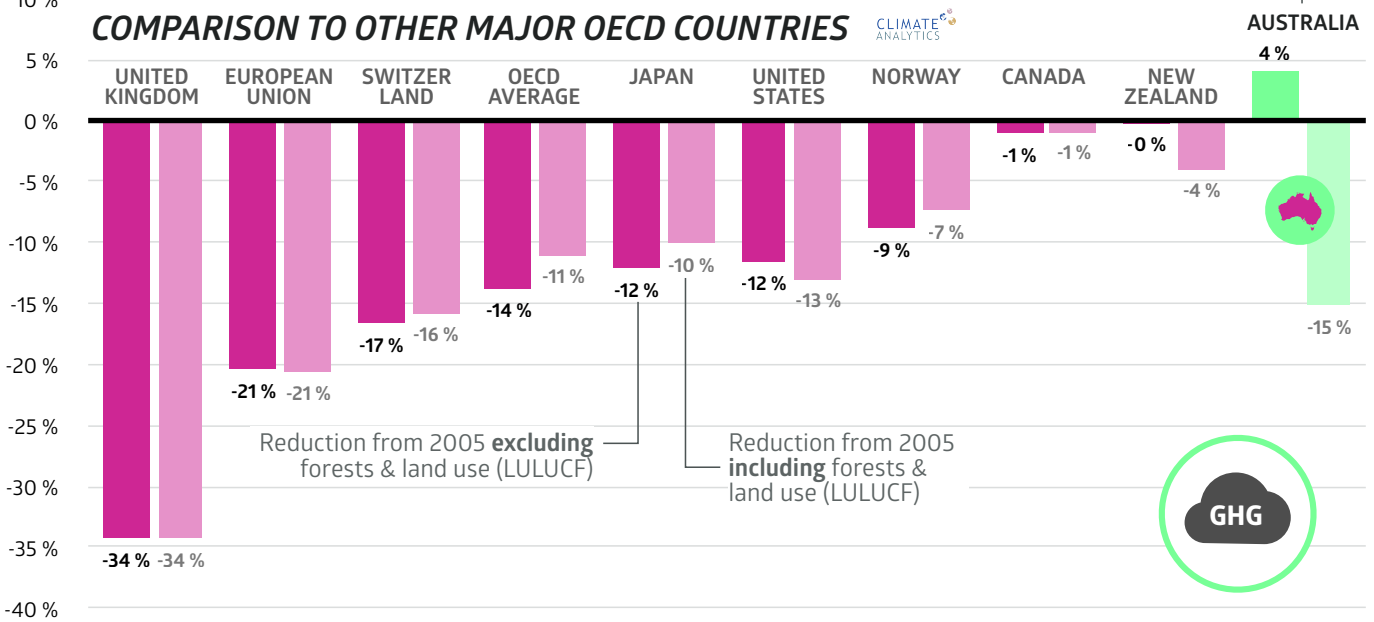
**MORE THAN DOUBLE THE OECD AVERAGE**

The rate at which we reduced emissions between 2005 and 2019 (15% vs 7%).

**FALSE**

- The OECD data does not support this conclusion.
- What is clear is that, excluding forestry, OECD countries *reduced* emissions by 14% on average<sup>1</sup> while **Australia *increased* emissions by 4% between 2005 and 2019.**
- Amongst comparable OECD countries, **Australia was the only one to increase these emissions.** The following countries decreased their emissions:
  - the UK by 34%
  - the EU27 by 21%
  - Germany by 18%
  - Japan by 12%
  - USA by 12%
  - Norway by 9%
  - Canada by 1%
  - New Zealand by 0.2%

*Australia's emissions reductions 2005-2019*



**Caption:** This graphic shows how Australia compares with similar OECD countries on emissions reductions from 2005-2019. The full range of countries is not all comparable to Australia's economic situation.

Source: PRIMAP (2021) Gütschow, J.; Günther, A.; Pflüger, M. The PRIMAP-hist national historical emissions time series (1750-2019). v2.3.1. zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.5494497>

**AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT CLAIM:**  
**NET ZERO EMISSIONS BY 2050**

The Long-Term Emissions Reduction Plan will help us achieve it.

**MISLEADING**

- The Federal government laid out a plan to reach net zero that doesn't actually get to net zero.
- **There are no plans to phase out coal, reduce fossil fuel exports, nor to reduce emissions from these sectors.**
- **The plan reduces emissions to 66% by 2050 from 2005 levels with its so-called "technology-led" approach.** It then outlines "Modest contributions from land sector sequestration and targeted purchases of international offsets" to get to 85% by 2050.
- So the government's plan relies on virtually no policies, more land-use offsets, and paying other countries to do the work, by buying international "offsets".

<sup>1</sup> The OECD average (for the 33 countries that have data available until 2019) is around a 11% average reduction including land use change and forestry, and for countries comparable to Australia the average is about 13%, with Australia's reductions around 15% as claimed (OECD 2021, Government Projections 2021). Including LULUCF makes a big difference only for Australia which changes the reductions to a real increase in emissions. For all other similar OECD countries, the difference is zero to 4%, and does not change a reduction to an increase in any case (OECD 2021).