

# Telstra's Review of Industry Association Climate Change and Energy Positions



December 2019

## Introduction

Telstra maintains memberships with a number of industry associations that we believe provide value to our business, industry, the economy and society more broadly. These associations bring access to the latest industry thinking and insights around issues including health and safety, the environment, indigenous reconciliation, regional communities and community engagement. They have an important role to play in the development of effective policy, regulation and industry standards.

Many industry associations that we participate in cover a broad range of issues and as a result our views on an issue may differ from other industry association members. In such situations we endeavour to engage directly with the relevant industry association to make our views known.

Recently there has been increasing stakeholder and community interest in the role of industry associations, particularly in relation to climate change, their contributions to public policy development and the setting of industry regulations and standards.

On 26 April 2019 we announced the commencement of an alignment review of our key industry associations in relation to climate change. The review has been completed during 2019 to identify whether the industry associations we are members of have materially different views from us on climate change and energy policy.

This document summarises our views on climate change and energy policy, our principles for engaging with industry associations, the methodology used and the findings of the review.

## Our views on climate change

We believe that the telecommunications sector has a significant role to play in enabling greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction and the transition to a low carbon economy. We acknowledge the latest findings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) that climate change is impacted by humans and that global warming should be restricted to well below 2 degrees Celsius. We are committed to achieving net zero GHG emissions by 2050. Our activities to manage the risks and opportunities presented by climate change are focused in the following areas:

- Enabling low carbon economic growth
- Supporting the decarbonisation of Australia's electricity market
- Minimising our GHG emissions
- Ensuring network resilience

Our climate change position statement is available here:

<https://www.telstra.com.au/aboutus/community-environment/environment>

## Principles of engagement with industry associations

Our principles for engaging with industry associations can be found here:

<https://www.telstra.com.au/aboutus/community-environment/responsible-business>

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In general, we seek to be part of organisations which:

- Create value for Telstra and our industry
- Create opportunities to better understand issues affecting our industry and contribute to the development of effective and efficient policy, regulation and industry standards
- Create professional development and training opportunities
- Facilitate the sharing of industry best practice and insights
- Assist us to better understand the diverse views held on important issues affecting industry

Associations where Telstra holds membership may have a position and advocate on climate change. We routinely review the positions of these associations and where we do not agree with the climate change and energy policy and/or the advocacy approach taken compared to Telstra's position, we will engage directly with them and review our ongoing relationship.

## Review methodology

In this review we identified a shortlist of industry associations to include based on whether an industry association has positions on climate change and energy policy.

Areas of climate change and energy policy considered in the review included:

- Acceptance of climate science
- Restricting global warming to 2 degrees Celsius
- Commitments under the Paris Agreement
- Setting emissions reduction targets
- A price on carbon
- Equal prioritisation of the energy trilemma
- Renewable energy targets
- Climate change resilience and adaptation
- The use of ICT to enable a low carbon economy

Industry association positions on climate change and energy policy were identified by reviewing public information and included sources such as formal climate change and energy policy positions, government submissions, media and social media commentary. The review considered public disclosures made up until 31 October 2019.

## Findings

Overall, there was broad alignment between Telstra's position and that of our industry associations. We will engage and advocate with those industry associations where there are minor differences or where positions are unclear to ensure our positions are known.

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Our review of the Business Council of Australia (**BCA**) concluded that formal climate and energy policy positions held by the BCA differ to commentary presented by them in public discourse.

We will engage directly with the BCA to discuss the findings of our review and recommend presenting consistent views on climate change and energy policy aligned to their formal policy positions.

We are committed to continuing to monitor our industry association memberships to identify whether any differences in climate change and energy policy continue to exist and will provide an update in our annual sustainability disclosures.

If monitoring of our industry associations identifies that there continues to be differences or unclear positions held by an industry association, then we will consider the future of the relationship.