

Australia signals shift away from climate credit 'cheating'

November 20 2020



Faced with climate-worsened bushfires, floods and drought, around 90 percent of Australians say climate change is an important or critical threat to the country

Australia's prime minister said the country may no longer rely on a much-criticised accounting tactic to meet its emissions targets, stepping away

from an approach international partners had labelled "cheating".

Conservative leader Scott Morrison said targets under the Paris [climate](#) accord could be met without using so-called "carryover" credits—a mechanism that reduces current emissions on paper but not in the atmosphere.

"We have the option of using these credits towards our next commitment period," Morrison told a business event on Friday. "My government's ambition is that we will not need them."

The credits were dubbed "cheating" by France's former environment minister and Paris accord architect Laurence Tubiana, and they could become a point of friction between Australia and the incoming administration of US President-elect Joe Biden.

Morrison—whose Liberal-National coalition contains a smattering of climate sceptics—has yet to commit to a date for achieving net-zero emissions.

The sparsely populated continent produces relatively low levels of emissions but is one of the world's largest exporters of both coal and gas.

The [prime minister](#) has long insisted that Australia "met and beat" its [emissions targets](#) under the Kyoto global agreement and would "do the same when it comes to our Paris commitments as well".

Morrison has welcomed Biden's promise to re-enter the Paris accord, adding that the "United States has always been welcome to rejoin".

But Greenpeace was cynical of the statement, labelling it as "lip service" and calling on the government to put in place a meaningful climate change policy.

"Australia is the only country in the world still using dodgy Kyoto credits, and Morrison is increasingly isolated on the world stage," Greenpeace Australia Pacific chief executive David Ritter said in a statement.

In the face of climate-worsened bushfires, floods and drought, around 90 percent of Australians say climate change is an important or critical threat to the country, according to a poll by Sydney's Lowy Institute.

© 2020 AFP

Citation: Australia signals shift away from climate credit 'cheating' (2020, November 20)
retrieved 24 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2020-11-australia-shift-climate-credit.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.