

NSW Climate Change Fund

2023-24 highlights



The Climate Change Fund reinforces our commitment to addressing climate change and enhancing the well-being of every resident in NSW. In November 2023, we legislated that commitment through the *Climate Change (Net Zero Future) Act 2023*, writing our targets into law.



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The fund aligns with the Net Zero Plan and will help us reach our target of net zero emissions by 2050 while creating a cleaner, greener, more resilient NSW where sustainability benefits everyone.

Transitioning to a low-emissions economy is challenging, but the rewards are immense. Whether we live in the inner city, suburbs or regional areas, our move from fossil fuels to renewable energy ensures that everyone has access to affordable, clean and reliable energy now, and for generations to come.

Renewables (solar, wind and firming) have already replaced coal-fired power as the most affordable source of energy, and we're harnessing our natural advantages in NSW. This year, the Climate Change Fund invested \$36.1 million to ensure households, businesses and communities benefit from this clean energy and \$7.1 million to provide energy bill relief through energy efficiency programs.

We're investing in solar panel and battery installations for households, improving grid stability with smart battery systems in public buildings, and advancing community-led projects like NSW's first community solar garden. Together we're building an energy system to be proud of, that will keep the lights on and put downward pressure on energy bills for decades to come.

The fund also helps businesses and landowners reduce emissions and improve land management. It develops carbon management skills and provides incentives and energy efficiency support to lower operational costs, increase profitability and boost statewide competitiveness.

This year, the fund invested \$49.2 million to take action on climate change, driving towards our goal to reach net zero emissions. Over \$166.2 million has been spent to increase community resilience and safeguard our communities from the effects of climate change. Initiatives range from protecting national parks to improving how we manage floodplains, fire and coastal erosion. This includes funding hazard reduction and cultural burns with local First Nations groups, supporting local councils to plan and manage flood risks and funding infrastructure to protect our beaches from coastal erosion.

The Climate Change Fund continues to drive technological innovation and research, positioning NSW as a leader in clean energy and sustainability, advancing our climate goals and bringing economic benefits. By learning from global successes and incorporating international best practice, we're accelerating progress towards net zero and growing our economy.

We're dedicated to ensuring all our investments deliver real benefits to the people of NSW. Together, we're building a sustainable future that will enhance our quality of life, support our economy, and protect our environment.

Penny Sharpe
Minister for Climate Change
and Minister for Energy

Reduced emissions by
5,862 tonnes
through the Vehicle Emissions
Offset Scheme



Conducted
3,000
electric vehicle
test drives



Over 1,000
social houses
provided with
more than
1,500 total
energy upgrades



Evaluated
1,015 private households and
87 social housing dwellings
across **170 locations** in the
NSW Residential Energy Performance Baseline
to inform future residential energy targets



Another
56 buildings
committed to
being NABERS
certified



86,000 MWh
saved annually via school
lighting upgrades



Generated
101,200 MWh
of annual solar power from
NSW Government sites

3 MWh
of battery storage added to
NSW public buildings



Over

170 plots

purchased by solar gardeners in the

first NSW

community solar garden

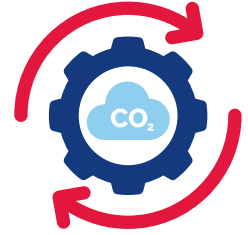


88

On-Farm Carbon Advice events to over

4,200

farmers



16

farm carbon management plans, with participants reporting increased knowledge

Over 200

clean tech start-ups engaged for networking, business model mentoring, and insights on positioning for success



Completed 2 solar farm projects to power

2,300 homes

and reduce emissions by an estimated

10,500 t

annually for 30 years



\$12.5 million

awarded to fund a 50 MW/2 hour New England Battery Energy system

155,711 trees

planted in Greater Sydney to help keep suburbs cooler

4,441 students

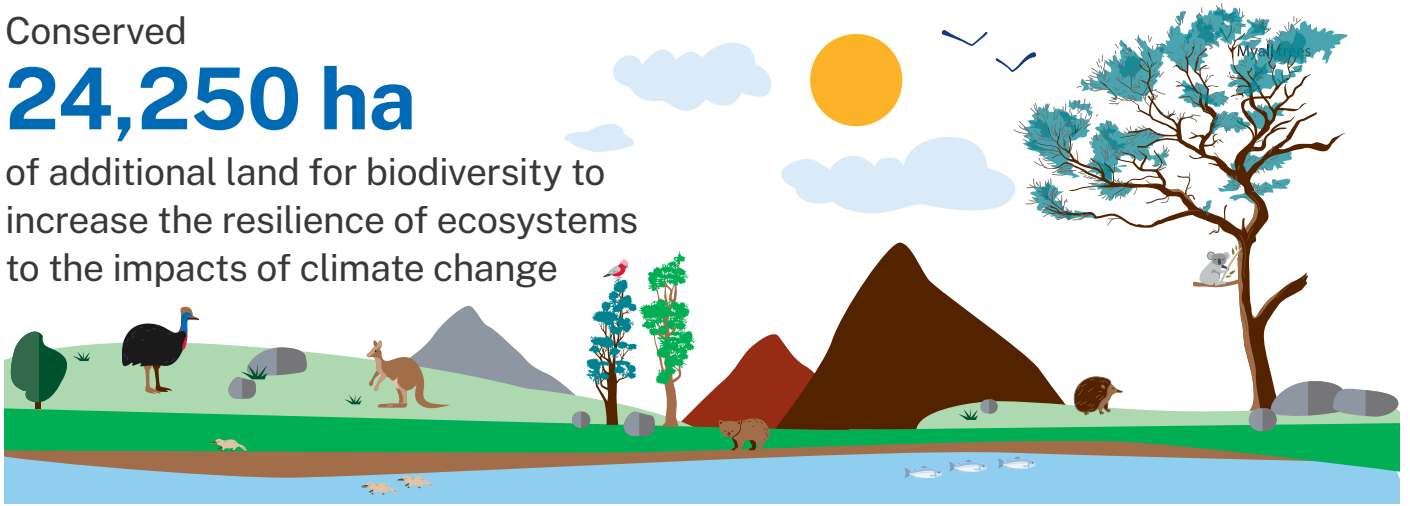
participated in tree planting, enhancing shade and green spaces while promoting urban greening



Conserved

24,250 ha

of additional land for biodiversity to increase the resilience of ecosystems to the impacts of climate change



33,687 ha

of hazard reduction completed, reducing the impacts of more intense bushfires due to climate change



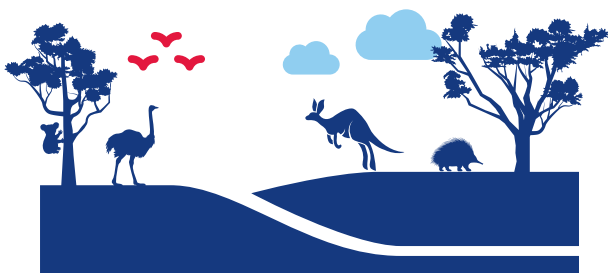
50,000

feral animals removed from national parks, building healthier, more resilience landscapes



40,000 ha

added to national parks, enhancing species migration under climate change and protecting diverse ecosystems across the state



7.86 ha

riverbank revegetated, enhancing riverbank protection, reducing flooding impacts downstream and providing habitat for native fauna



10

cultural burns conducted, reducing wildfire risk, restoring ecosystems, and strengthening cultural connections



60

regional councils undertook flood risk workshops to promote best practice and integrate flood risk management planning into council processes



458,219

visits to AdaptNSW website, providing access to information, advice and decision tools on the best way to adapt and prepare for climate change

