

Shaping policy for what comes next

Policy futures focuses on what comes next. We examine how today's decisions, commitments and constraints are shaping future policy environments, and identify opportunities for action before options become limited.

Using tools such as forecasting and scenario development, we help governments, industries and the community sector test current policies against emerging conditions and make more confident, future-focused decisions.

While some of our work has a long-term horizon, policy futures is equally relevant to immediate challenges that will shape future choices.

Where we create impact



Environment and climate change

- Climate change and energy transition
- Water and urban planning
- Sustainable development, production and consumption
- Emerging environmental technologies
- Sustainability policy and governance

Work and economic security



- Just transitions
- Care work and other unpaid forms of labour
- Flexible forms of employment
- Work and its link to other institutions and social rights
- Labour market inequalities and economic (in)security



Social justice

- Food justice and climate action
- Civil society, social change and governance
- Rights-based sustainable development and Sustainable Development Goals
- Homelessness, poverty and welfare

Technology and society



- Artificial Intelligence and digital technologies
- Commercial DNA ancestry and health testing
- Quantum technologies for decarbonising economies
- Genomics in healthcare
- Ethnobotanical knowledge



Independent policy leadership

We provide trusted, independent policy advice grounded in rigorous research evidence, lived experience and a deep commitment to the public good. Our independence enables us to raise difficult questions, build trust across sectors, and contribute significant insights that carry weight.

Drive evidence-informed action

Our work combines academic rigour with real-world relevance. Drawing on expertise in qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-methods research, we generate new knowledge and synthesise existing evidence to deliver practical, timely insights that inform decision-making. From primary research and strategic foresight to rapid reviews, evaluation, and policy implementation advice, we support evidence-informed action at every stage.

Reframe complex problems

We start with how the policy challenge is framed, unpacking assumptions and competing views. By bringing together perspectives from government, industry, regulators and communities, we help make sense of complexity and identify practical pathways forward.

Build policy engagement capability

We help next gen policy thinkers to develop the knowledge, skills and networks needed to navigate complex policy environments. Through innovative research, tailored training, workshops, collaboration and knowledge exchange, we enable more effective participation in policy processes to support meaningful and lasting impact.

Policy influence in action

Our research and expertise have helped

Governments

We help decision-makers navigate uncertainty, identify emerging risks earlier, and make choices that remain robust under changing conditions

Communities

We bring together decision-makers, industry, researchers, communities, rights holders and people with lived experience to co-design policy solutions that are grounded in evidence and work in practice

Industries

We help organisations frame policy problems clearly, assess existing settings and develop practical pathways for change

Parliamentarians

We contribute evidence and expertise that inform parliamentary inquiries, public debates and policy reform in Australia and internationally

Our impact



Policy and reform

- Shaped Australian parliamentary recommendations on compulsory income management through an influential [submission](#) formally recognised in the Committee's final report
- Helped define Australia's marine science priorities through peer-reviewed [White Papers](#) identifying future research infrastructure needs and broader cultural, social and economic considerations



Strategic foresight

- Developed strategic [workforce pathways](#) for a large community services provider, identifying future employment models to support Queensland's evolving care workforce
- Identified [future opportunities and risks](#) in Australia's horticultural regions to inform sustainable and equitable policy development



Engagement and co-design

- Coordinating the [Queensland Decarbonisation Hub](#), bringing together government, industry, researchers, communities and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to co-design pathways to a net-zero future
- Convened stakeholders across government, industry, agriculture, community organisations and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to co-design a [regional food procurement](#) agenda for Brisbane 2032



Evaluation

- Evaluating [workforce supply reform](#) options to provide robust estimates of their potential to reduce labour shortages in Queensland's civil construction sector
- Evaluating pathways for a [just climate transition](#) in Victoria to provide a social justice framework to support equitable net-zero implementation



Contact

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