Australian Government
Department of Finance

RMIT Online

**Step beyond awareness into action.**
Co-designed with RMIT Online and Finance, this course builds the skills to deliver credible, measurable outcomes.



FUTURE SKILLS SHORT COURSE

## → Climate Fundamentals for Australian Government Operations



FUTURE SKILLS SHORT COURSE

## → Meeting Australian Government Climate Targets

# Who are these courses for?

- Australian Public Service (APS) staff working in operational or strategic roles who want to contribute directly to their agency's emissions reduction and sustainability targets.
- Professionals supporting planning, reporting or procurement functions looking to build the skills needed to design and implement credible emissions reduction strategies in the APS.



**TIME COMMITMENT:**
Each course is 100% online, 6 weeks, and approximately 5 hours per week.

**COURSE PRICE:**
$1200 GST inc per course.

**PREREQUISITES / LEVEL OF STUDY:**
There are no prerequisites. Anyone is welcome to enrol.

**METHOD OF STUDY:**
Online study, including interactive videos, assignments, prescheduled webinars, and a 1:1 online session with mentors and industry experts.

**ENROLMENT:**
You can enrol at any time, the whole process only takes a few minutes.

# What is covered in the two courses?

| | Climate Fundamentals for Australian Government Operations | Meeting Australian Government Climate Targets |
|---|---|---|
| **Objective** | Build foundational climate knowledge tailored to Australian Government operations. Understand the science, policy and targets that shape Australia's response to climate change. | Learn how to design credible emissions reduction strategies aligned to the APS Net Zero 2030 target and apply them to your agency's context. |
| **What you'll learn** | This course will cover the following areas:<br>☑ describe fundamental climate science concepts and their implications for a specific context<br>☑ explain the significance of actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by Commonwealth Government entities from both a national and international perspective<br>☑ explain the role of the Australian Public Service in meeting Australia's national and international climate commitments. | This course will cover the following areas:<br>☑ identify climate risks and emissions reduction actions for a specific Commonwealth Government entity or operation<br>☑ propose a practical solution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions for a specific Commonwealth government entity or operation. |
| **Course outcomes** | You will produce a fact sheet that demonstrates your understanding of climate science, policy and Australian Government entity responsibilities. | You will complete a business proposal for an Australian Government entity to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions, showing your ability to support emissions reduction in a government context. |

# Why study Climate Fundamentals for Australian Government Operations & Meeting Australian Government Climate Targets?

Gain the knowledge and skills to support the Australian Government's climate priorities with two targeted online courses developed in collaboration with the Department of Finance. Designed for public servants, these courses combine foundational climate science and policy with practical applications relevant to the work of Commonwealth entities.

You will learn the importance of climate action, build emissions reduction strategies, and how to apply your knowledge through workplace-relevant projects such as fact sheets and business proposals.

Whether you are aiming to enhance your personal capabilities or champion climate action within your agency, these courses provide the tools and insights to make a substantial impact. Join us and be at the forefront of Australia's climate action, contributing to the Australian Government's strategic priorities.

The Australian Government has legislated a target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 43% below 2005 levels by 2030 and achieve **net zero emissions by 2050**, emphasising **the need for skilled professionals** to support this transition.

(DEPARTMENT OF CLIMATE CHANGE, ENERGY, THE ENVIRONMENT AND WATER)

A 2024 survey by CSIRO revealed that over **80% of Australians are interested in the renewable energy transition**, indicating robust public backing for renewable initiatives.

(COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION)

**The Australian Government is committed to achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions from government operations by 2030**, demonstrating leadership in climate action through the APS Net Zero 2030 target.

(NET ZERO IN GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS STRATEGY)

# Why study with RMIT Online?

RMIT Online is for students who want real world training from industry professionals. We call this the RMIT Online edge. Get ready to sharpen those skills.



### Digital credential

The cutting-edge skills you will learn are rigorously assessed and recognised by both a leading university and key employers in the field of study through a digital credential.

### Connect with industry

Our courses are designed with high profile partners to ensure you are job ready, learning practical skills that align with industry best practice.

### Real world skills

Our project-based assessments mean you will roll up your sleeves and create a project for a real-world business scenario, allowing you to see the immediate impact of your learning within your organisation.

### 100% flexible skills

The freedom of online learning means you can study whenever you want, wherever you want, in a manner that suits your work and lifestyle.

### Collaborative online experience

Never feel like you are studying alone and feel supported with our team of expert industry mentors, SMEs, and the learner success team.

# What you'll learn

## Climate Fundamentals for Australian Government Operations

Develop your foundational climate literacy, including your understanding of climate science, international and Australian climate policy, and the climate obligations of Commonwealth Government entities.

WEEK 1

### Introduction to climate science

- explain what climate change is and why it is a critical concern
- outline the ways in which human activity is contributing to the changing climate
- describe the difference between weather and climate.

**Milestone:** Choose an Australian Government asset/activity and highlight the ways in which use of the asset/activity has the potential to impact climate change.

WEEK 2

### Impacts of climate change

- explain how a changing climate impacts ecosystems and biodiversity
- describe the social and economic consequences of a changing climate
- link the impacts of climate change to Australian Government assets and activities.

**Milestone:** Create a mind map of your chosen asset/activity's impacts. Consider the various climate-related hazards and risks that could impact the environment, economy and society.

WEEK 3

### Global climate policy and governance

- describe the major institutions that support the development of international climate policy
- identify the most significant developments in international climate policy
- explain how key international agreements have shaped climate policy.

**Milestone:** Outline how international climate agreements have shaped Australia's obligations to take climate action.

WEEK 4

### Australia's climate policy framework

- outline the current state of climate policy internationally
- summarise the Australian climate policy context.

**Milestone:** Provide an outline of Australian Government targets and initiatives according to Australian climate policy, and how these impact on the operation of the asset/activity.

WEEK 5

### The Australian Government's role in climate action

- outline Australian Government initiatives to contribute to Australia's main climate targets
- describe a successful initiative by the Australian Government to integrate climate action into an area of operations.

**Milestone:** Explain what Australia's climate commitments mean for the future use and management of the asset. Based on this, make recommendations for the future management of the asset/activity.

WEEK 6

### Putting it all together

- review your milestones throughout the course and bring them together in the final project.

**Final Project:** Develop a two-page written fact sheet, outlining the contribution of your selected Australian Government asset to meeting the APS Net Zero 2030 target.

# What you'll learn

## Meeting Australian Government Climate Targets

Develop your knowledge and skills to enact emissions reduction initiatives. You will be able to develop and implement actions to contribute to meeting APS Net Zero 2030 targets.

WEEK 1

### Introduction to APS Net Zero 2030

- define net zero and why it matters to Australia
- explain how Commonwealth Government entities are contributing to Australia's net zero targets.

**Milestone:** Select an area of operations within your entity. Write a brief rationale explaining why this area of operations in your entity presents opportunities for emissions reduction.

WEEK 2

### Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy - 1

- describe several focus areas of the NZGO Strategy
- outline approaches to reducing energy consumption and improving energy efficiency in Commonwealth Government entities
- explain the basis for zero-emissions vehicle targets for the Government fleet.

**Milestone:** Identify an initiative you will propose to reduce emissions in this area, and write a brief outline (type of initiative, stakeholders, leaders required for endorsement and sponsorship).

WEEK 3

### Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy - 2

- outline key strategies for reducing emissions in travel and ICT
- outline how procurement plays a role in emissions reduction
- outline steps to plan, monitor and report on an emissions reduction initiative.

**Milestone:** Draft a high-level set of actions required to implement the initiative.

WEEK 4

### Emissions reduction in a broader policy context

- explore the broader Australian Government policy context that supports actions to reduce emissions in government operations
- learn about sustainable procurement, investing in nature and enhancing capabilities within government.

**Milestone:** Prepare a list of resource requirements that would be necessary to implement the initiative successfully. For each item, make note of how the resource might be obtained.

WEEK 5

### Climate risk and disclosure

- outline the requirements and basic process for identifying, managing and disclosing climate risks and opportunities
- outline the requirements for Commonwealth Government entities to publicly report on climate risks and opportunities.

**Milestone:** Draft a brief plan for identifying the climate risks and opportunities associated with the proposed initiative, and briefly explain the entity's requirements for disclosure.

WEEK 6

### Putting it all together

- review your work throughout the course, including each of the milestones you completed towards your final project
- share your proposal for an entity to reduce its emissions.

**Final Project:** Develop a two-page business proposal for the initiative. In your proposal, clearly state how the initiative aligns with the APS Net Zero 2030 target and the Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy.

# Who’s supporting you?

Just because it’s online, doesn’t mean you are on your own. RMIT Online’s support network includes 1:1 feedback from our industry mentors, real-world insights, and study support from our learner success team.

Our industry partners have helped shaped and build this course to ensure the content is up to date and best practice.



**Dr Sophie Lewis – Subject Matter Expert**

Dr Sophie Lewis has published over 50 research articles on climate change and variability during previous roles at the University of New South Wales, the University of Melbourne, and the Australian National University. She was awarded an Australian Research Council DECRA Fellowship to examine changes in rainfall extremes in 2014 and served as a lead author on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s (IPCC) 6th Assessment Report from 2018 to 2021. Dr Lewis was named 2019 ACT Scientist of the Year in recognition of her research excellence and her commitment to children and young people and their futures in a changing climate.

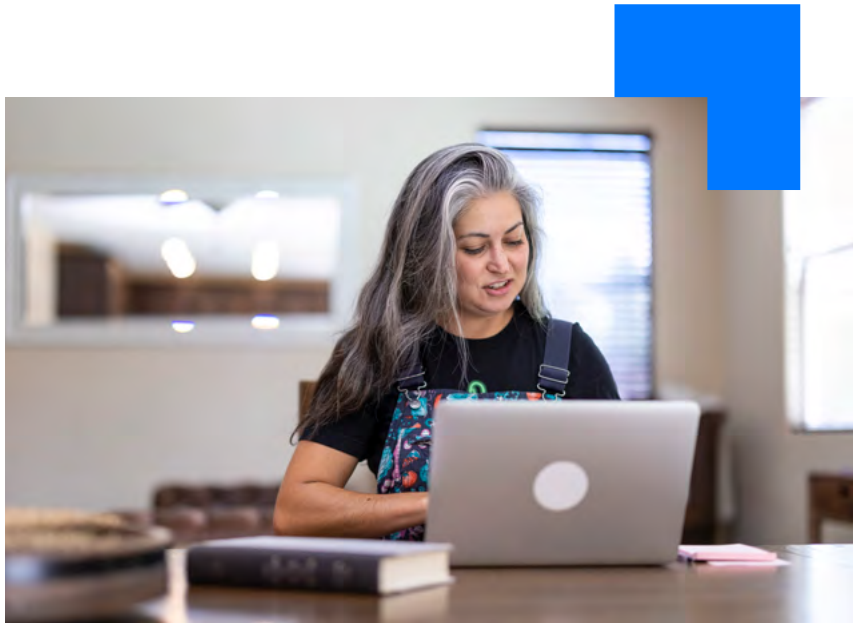
From 2020 to 2025, Dr Lewis served as the ACT Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment, an independent statutory position that serves as a voice for the environment and climate action in the ACT.

**Learner success team, RMIT Online**

Our learner success team are here to help you with 1:1 coaching, tips on how to successfully study online, and any questions or concerns you may have.

# How online learning works

This is a basic breakdown of how your course works. You can always find more information at online.rmit.edu.au



## Before the course starts

Before we get cracking, you will need access to a computer with broadband connection. Any 64-bit operating system with at least 8GB of RAM should work. We will help you install any software you might need, but in the meantime, download Teams, and make sure your webcam and speakers are working.

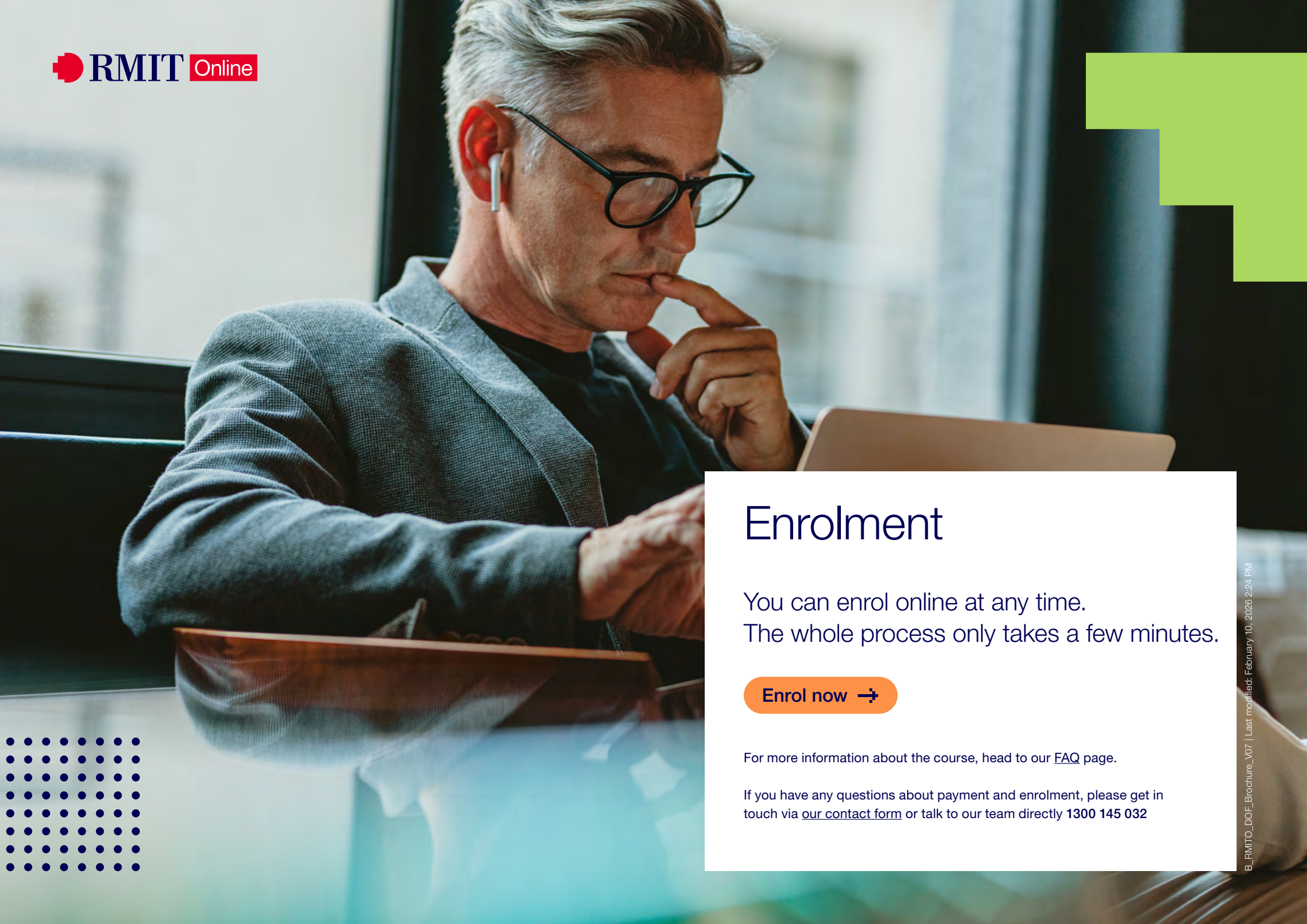
## During the course

A lot of your RMIT Online Future Skills course will consist of video snippets. You can watch these whenever you like. There are also regular interactive webinars, online forums to chat with your peers and a scheduled 1:1 session with your industry mentor.

We will set up Teams channels so you can connect with your classmates and grow your professional network. You can also reach out to your Course Manager if you ever need help.

## Tools

- Video lectures
- 1:1 mentor session
- Webinars
- Teams channels and forums



# Enrolment

You can enrol online at any time.
The whole process only takes a few minutes.

**Enrol now**

For more information about the course, head to our FAQ page.

If you have any questions about payment and enrolment, please get in touch via our contact form or talk to our team directly **1300 145 032**

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