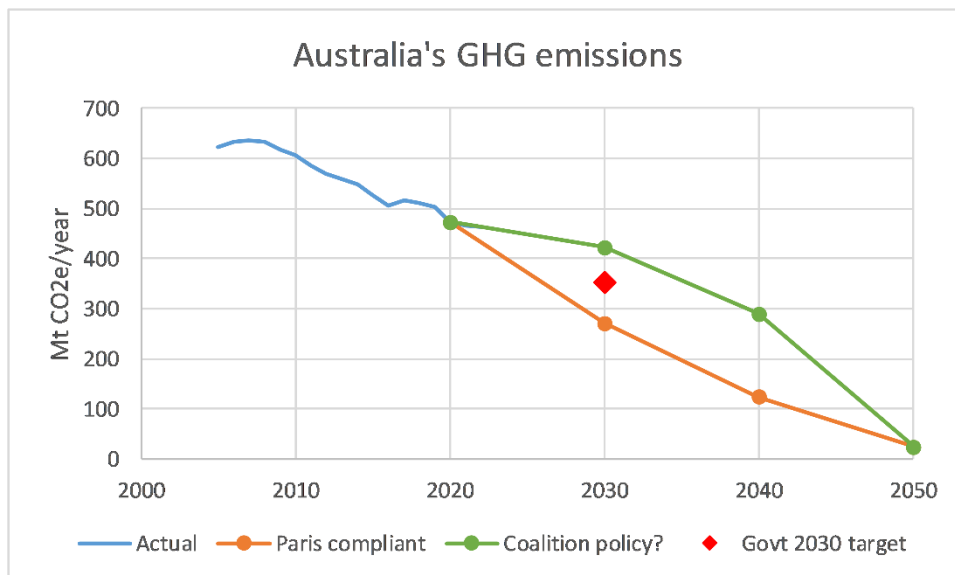


Australia's 2030 Paris target

The Paris Agreement is a commitment to keep temperature rise 'well below' 2°C by 2100. This will be determined by the cumulative emissions between now and 2100, not annual emissions. Accordingly, delaying action means that cumulative emissions (and hence atmospheric CO2 concentration) will be higher and climate change worse. The coalition has now announced that they will ditch the 2030 target but keep the Net Zero by 2050 target. That would presumably make their trajectory look something like the plot below. If that was achieved Australia would emit around 315 MtCO2e (22%) more between now and 2050 than a Paris compliant (SSP1-1.9) trajectory. Although that would breach our Paris obligation not to renege on a pledged target, it is in fact not much in the scheme of things (about 7 months worth of present annual emissions) and might be less problematical if there was a credible energy strategy to match - which there isn't (see my earlier article on nuclear). Given the coalition's history of climate denial / inaction a sceptic might believe this announcement is just more of the same.



Bill Grace

June 13, 2024