

Community Alliance – Griffith Uni – Saturday 15 October 2022

# Planning to tackle climate change

**10 ACTIONS FOR A CLIMATE-CONSCIOUS  
PLANNING SYSTEM IN QUEENSLAND**

## Who is PIA?

- The Planning Institute of Australia is the professional association for urban and regional planners.
- This year is our 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and PIA currently represents approximately 5,300 members and connects with more than 10,500 planners annually.
- **Our mission** is to champion the role of planning in shaping Australia's future. PIA does this through leadership, advocacy and contemporary planning education.
- **Our vision** is for PIA to be Australia's trusted voice on planning.



# Why does the planning profession care?



## **Planners are motivated to create a better future**

Planners make decisions that shape urban and regional development in the long-term. Decisions about the type of development we build and where we locate it are critical to the future environments in which communities live.



## **Planners have a duty to the public interest**

PIA believes that planners working for the different levels of government or in the private sector have a responsibility to integrate planning for climate change into their work and be proactive in the development of mitigation and adaptation strategies to avoid harm and negative impacts to present and future ecosystems and populations.



## **The built environment is a significant source of climate emissions**

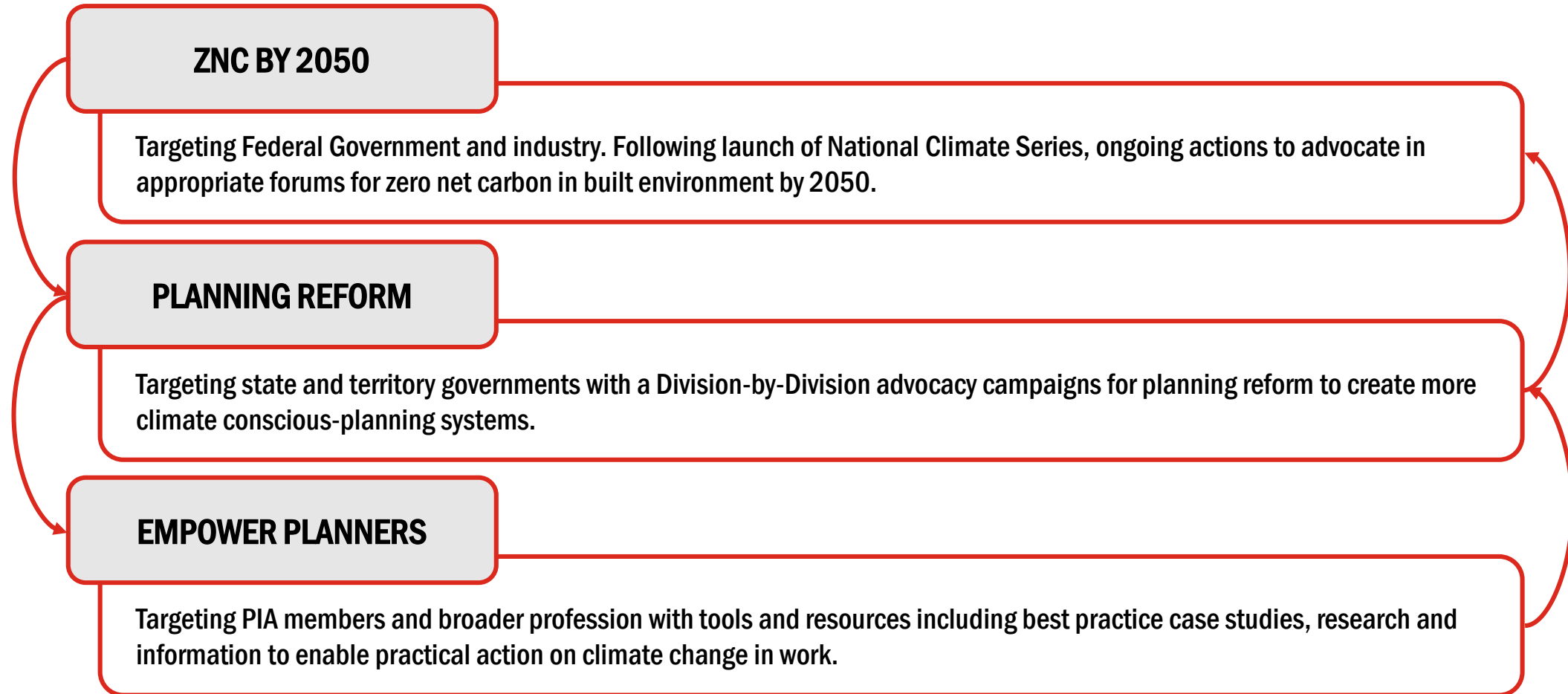
Buildings are responsible for more than half of Australia's electricity consumption, and almost a quarter of our total greenhouse gas emissions.

## **Climate change will significantly impact the built environment**

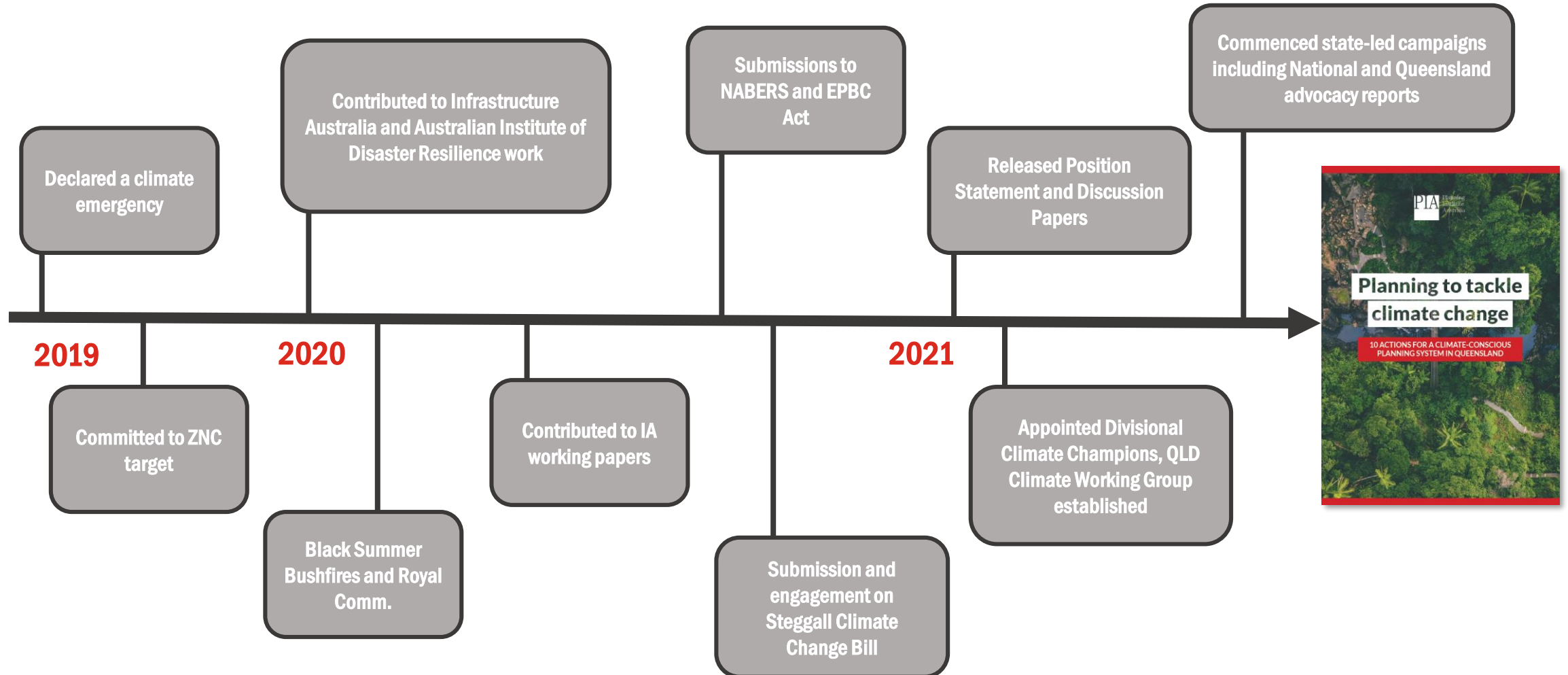
Climate change impacts, including rising sea levels, increased risk of storm tide inundation, coastal flooding and increased coastal erosion are likely to have significant impacts on property and infrastructure.



# The national advocacy campaign



# What's PIA done to date?



# PIA Queensland's Ten Actions

## 1. Adopt a common climate change goal across all planning legislation

Adopt consistent climate change purpose statements across the *Economic Development Act 2012* and the *State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971* in line with the focus of the *Planning Act 2016* on the achievement of ecological sustainability.

### 2022 Update

✓ Drafted amendments to the purpose of the *Planning Act 2016* sent to DSDILGP

## 2. Provide new strategic planning guidelines for mitigating and adapting to climate change

Strengthen the strategic planning framework to protect Queenslanders from the adverse impacts of climate change, including:

- Develop a Queensland Settlement Strategy.
- Prepare new guidance material for local government about the incorporation of climate change in strategic planning.
- Review the practical implementation of s30 of the *Planning Act 2016*.
- Expand the information in Planning and Development Certificates to include resilience and climate change.

### 2022 Update

✓ Submission to Department of Justice and Attorney General on Sellers Disclosure Act

# PIA Queensland's Ten Actions

## 3. Assess new infrastructure for climate impacts

Include clear and measurable climate assessment requirements for new state and local government infrastructure in the proposed State Infrastructure Strategy and ensure these requirements are reflected in the Project Assessment Framework, infrastructure project procurement and infrastructure program funding processes.

## 4. Introduce stronger sustainability standards for new buildings

Review the Queensland Development Code to identify opportunities to lift sustainability and resilience standards for new buildings.

## 5. Plan for the impacts of heat on Queensland

Update the State Planning Policy to incorporate heat (including heat wave and heat island) as a state interest for natural hazards, including guidance mapping, policies and assessment benchmarks.

### 2022 Update

- ✓ Draft underway on an urban heat toolkit
- ✓ Letter to the Minister on inaugural heat action day

# PIA Queensland's Ten Actions

## 6. Invest more to address climate change risks and build resilience at the local level

Deliver “Planning for Climate Change Grants” to support training, capacity-building and local planning projects that address climate change risks and improve resilience to future extreme climatic events and hazards.

## 7. Streamline development assessment for low and zero carbon development proposals

Introduce streamlined development assessment pathways for renewable energy projects and other low or zero carbon development to incentivise high performance and fast-track jobs.

## 8. Deliver a low or zero carbon precinct as a demonstration project to showcase best practice

Partner with the private sector to pilot a low carbon or zero carbon precinct to demonstrate the potential to achieve precinct-scale carbon reduction.



# PIA Queensland's Ten Actions

## 9. Introduce better planning for protecting and expanding green and open space

Deliver new planning initiatives that expand and protect green and open space, including:

- Progress and finalise the proposed Strategic Assessment for South East Queensland.
- Develop Green Grid strategies and tools to plan for inter-connected networks of green and open space.
- Encourage local governments to include mature street tree planting (or trees able to grow to provide canopy and shade) in the Desired Standards of Service under Local Government Infrastructure Plans and/or planning schemes.

## 10. Retrofit existing neighbourhoods with climate responsive urban design

Establish a “Walkable Communities Fund” to invest in projects that retrofit climate responsive urban design via more walkable and accessible neighbourhoods, including footpaths and tree-planting.

### 2022 Update

✓ Strong submission to Government on recognising Green and Blue network as part of the draft State Infrastructure Strategy. The final edition had these as an infrastructure stream

✓ Submission requested strong cross governmental collaboration which was also included in the final edition

## What's next?

- 1.** Build understanding and capacity in the profession.
- 2.** Continue to advocate, collaborate and work with the Queensland Government and stakeholders to progress our 10 actions
- 3.** Develop alliances with other groups and organisations to support shared agendas, land-use and beyond.

Thanks – report partner

Thank you

Questions

