Report: COP31 Investor Roundtables

Mobilising private capital for climate adaptation and resilience

Purpose and scope

This report distils participant perspectives from two roundtables convened in Melbourne and Sydney by Impact Investing Australia (IIA) and the UN-supported Principles for Responsible Investment (PRI). It is intended for participants and relevant government stakeholders, and will also inform GSG Impact engagement as part of the Fostering Investable National Implementation (FINI) process. The focus is Australia's domestic adaptation and resilience investment environment, with implications for Australia's contribution to COP31 and climate finance in the Pacific and wider Asia-Pacific region.

Key themes

Climate adaptation and resilience are increasingly material to institutional investors in Australia, but the financing architecture needed to mobilise private capital at scale remains underdeveloped. The following key themes emerged across both roundtables:

1. Connect the architecture

Australia has important building blocks, including the NCRA, NAP, AASB S2 and CPG 229.[1] Investors want these connected through a national resilience framework and funded investment roadmap.

2. Price resilience value

Long-term resilience benefits, avoided losses and ecosystem services are not consistently reflected in valuations, budgets, benchmarks or regulated asset pricing.

3. Build an investable pipeline

Capital gaps remain between grants and commercial finance. Public and catalytic capital, sector pathways and aggregation are needed to convert sub-scale opportunities into institutional-grade investments.

4. Improve data and shared definitions

Investors need affordable, comparable physical-risk data and outcome-based definitions of adaptation, resilience and maladaptation to support credible decisions and reporting.

About the Roundtables

More than 60 participants joined the two roundtables from over 45 organisations These included asset owners, asset managers, insurers, impact and specialist investors, advisers, philanthropic funders and data providers. Each roundtable opened with a keynote address from an Australian Government representative.

- Melbourne, 31 August 2026: Hosted by The University of Melbourne. Keynote speaker: the Hon. Kate Thwaites MP, Special Envoy for Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience.
- Sydney, 10 September 2026: Hosted by Cairncross Capital. Keynote speaker: Dr Chell Lyons, Director, China, Japan and International Finance, Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW).

Discussions were held under the Chatham House Rule. Investor observations are presented as views raised in the discussions, not as positions endorsed by every participant, IIA, PRI or their members. Government remarks are high-level summaries from public-record material and are not verbatim.

[1] **Abbreviations:** NCRA: National Climate Risk Assessment; NAP: National Adaptation Plan; AASB S2: Australian Sustainability Reporting Standard Climate-related Disclosures; CPG 229: APRA's prudential practice guide on climate change financial risks.

Key insights

The central challenge identified by participants was the need to connect climate-risk information, adaptation action and measurable resilience outcomes, with investable pipelines and clearer roles for public and private capital. These are outlined below:

Definitions, outcomes and valuation

Roundtable participants distinguished adaptation as an action or process from resilience as a capacity or outcome. Capital expenditure or insurance cover may show that risk is being managed, but does not by itself demonstrate improved resilience. Investors therefore sought a clearer line from vulnerability assessment to action and measurable outcomes. They also observed that benefits not captured in valuations, cash flows or public accounting are unlikely to influence capital allocation.

Data, pipelines and financing structures

Physical-risk analysis is becoming more granular and is increasingly integrated into mainstream investment processes, but cost, comparability and model uncertainty remain barriers. The pipeline is clearest where an investor controls the asset and can capture the benefit. Assets that create resilience for others, such as flood mitigation or early-warning systems, often generate dispersed public value. This strengthens the case for catalytic capital, risk sharing and aggregation.

Policy coherence, nature and regional finance

Participants generally favoured connecting existing climate-risk architecture before adding new requirements. Nature, land and First Nations considerations were raised as integral to effective resilience outcomes, although specific policy proposals were not necessarily shared by all participants. For the Pacific, participants highlighted the need for structures that respond to small project scale, high physical risk and the importance of government-supported risk sharing.

Priority areas for action

Eleven priority areas were identified to further develop Australia's climate financing architecture. These are outlined below:

1. A national resilience framework and investment roadmap

Connect risk disclosure, adaptation action and measured outcomes; develop sector pathways, baselines and a bankable project pipeline.

2. Shared outcome-based definitions and metrics

Define adaptation, resilience and maladaptation, including co-benefits and residual risk.

3. Clarified public-private risk allocation

Set out which risks government will carry and which private capital is expected to carry, supported by clear prudential signals.

4. Improved access to climate-risk data

Make priority datasets, including flood, fire and building-level information, more accessible, comparable and affordable.

5. Use of public and catalytic capital to crowd in private investment

Clarify adaptation mandates for public capital providers including CEFC, NRF, ARENA;[2] deploy higher-risk and concessional capital where public benefit is high but commercial returns alone are insufficient. Build on blended-finance experience in Southeast Asia and the Pacific and develop sector pathways that identify the appropriate financing architecture.

6. Aggregated sub-scale projects

Back aggregator platforms with blended-finance capability and build on existing community-energy aggregation pilots.

7. Extension of and continued application of the sustainable finance taxonomy

Cover adaptation and test priority use cases, including investment identification, product claims and capital allocation.

8. Exploration of how private and blended finance can complement the Pacific Resilience Facility

Test risk-sharing structures with investor and Pacific stakeholder input, recognising the distinct scale, risk profile and public-good characteristics of Pacific adaptation needs.

9. The integration of nature into climate policy and disclosure

Some participants called for practical guidance on integrating nature into climate reporting, stronger support for nature-based solutions and First Nations participation by design. Further policy development should reflect the range of stakeholder views.

10. Recognition of resilience in economic and investment frameworks

Better account for expected disaster costs, avoided losses and long-horizon investment in budgeting, productivity and investment settings.

11. Recognition of resilience investment in regulated asset pricing

Engage competition and economic regulators on how prudent resilience spending can be recovered without placing undue burdens on consumers.

[2] **Abbreviations:** CEFC: Clean Energy Finance Corporation; NRF: National Reconstruction Fund; ARENA: Australian Renewable Energy Agency.

Next steps

The key themes and insights from both roundtables will inform:

- Policy engagement with the Special Envoy for Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience and relevant DCCEEW stakeholders.
- The FINI process via GSG Impact, supporting discussion of national implementation ahead of and at COP31.
- Continued engagement between investors, government and other stakeholders on investment pipelines and enabling settings beyond COP31.

Acknowledgement and contacts

IIA and PRI thank all participants and hosts for their contribution to the Melbourne and Sydney roundtables.

For queries, please contact:

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Appendix 1: Resources

Financing adaptation and resilience:

- Mobilising Investment for Climate Adaptation (co-authored by the Investor Group on Climate Change and the Actuaries Institute)
- Advancing Priority Actions on Financing Adaptation and Resilience (Australian Sustainable Finance Institute – Climate Action Week 2026 background paper)

FINI Initiative: https://onebillionresilient.org/project/fini/

Blended finance: Melbourne Business School, Sustainable Value Creation Institute: Blended Finance for Climate Initiative

Nature, land and carbon markets:

- Nature-based solutions for climate (DCCEEW)
- Agriculture and Land Sector Plan (DAFF)
- SBTi guidance (v2): Ongoing Emissions Responsibility

Appendix 2: Participating organisations

We thank the participating organisations for their contributions:

ACSI	Latitude15
Allegro	Macquarie Group Foundation
Altiorem	Melbourne Business School
AMP Capital	Metrics Credit Partners
AMP Foundation	MSCI
Artesian Capital Management	Northern Trust Asset Management
ASFI	National Reconstruction Fund
Australian Land Conservation Alliance	Palisade Impact
BGH Capital	PRI
Brightlight	Responsible Investment Association Australasia
Cairncross Capital	Rest Super
Canbury	RJPC
Cbus Super	Roc Partners
Charter Hall	Save the Children Global Ventures
DFAT	Taylor Fry
Ecotone Partners	The Snow Foundation
Evans & Partners	The Social Investment Collective
Fidelity International	The University of Melbourne
IFM Investors	U Ethical Investors
Impact Alpha Partners	VanEck Australia
Impact Investing Australia	VFMC
Investor Group on Climate Change	WaveStone Capital
JANA	World Benchmarking Alliance