



# SCENARIO 2 - POLARISATION

Our POLARISATION scenario imagines the world continuing to be polarised by climate change. The built environment industry fails to move beyond a piecemeal, project-by-project green ratings system.

The Paris Agreement fails to meet its 2 degree target and overall the main focus is on adapting to climate change without compromising on economic growth or current lifestyles.

## WE'RE OUT OF PARIS OR ELSE

**Cause:** The USA, Australia and Brazil lead the charge in suggesting countries withdraw from the Paris Agreement.

**Effect:** Remaining countries request a stop and pause to avoid collapse of Paris Agreement. All countries agree to review in 2025.

## ADAPTATION MINDSET STARTS

**Cause:** Recognition from the public sector that more than 2 degrees of warming requires climate adaptation to avoid financial collapse.

**Effect:** Business opportunities arise for coastal and inland adaptation measures at a global scale.

## THE HEAT IS ON

**Cause:** Adaptation efforts help with acute impacts but struggle to deal with chronic issues of heat extremes and drought.

**Effect:** Real estate values drop in most affected areas as people leave cities and towns while they can. **2C**

## NEAR ZERO CARBON FROM GDP LOSS

**Cause:** The reduction in resources, agriculture yield loss and inhabitability of certain areas reduces GDP.

**Effect:** The world achieves near zero carbon by 2050 through GDP loss. People spend less, eat less, waste less and fly less. **2E**

2010

2020

2030

2040

2050

PAST

## THE STORY SO FAR

The 2015 UN Climate Change Conference in Paris results in the Paris Agreement to limit global warming to less than 2 degrees.

220 Governments across the world join the Under 2 Coalition with the goal of limiting global warming to less than 2 degrees.

Australia overnight temperature heat record set in New South Wales at 35.9°C. Global overnight temperature record was set in 2017 in Oman at 44.2°C. **2A, 2B**

## PARIS TARGET REVISED

**Cause:** Governments back away from 2 degree target. To achieve consensus the new Agreement is set to 3 degrees.

**Effect:** Country pledges are maintained at 2016 levels. Solutions to keep below 3 degrees are delayed until losses require action.

## NATIONALISM IN ADAPTATION

**Cause:** Rising cost of adaptation in the developed countries results in foreign aid being cut off. Countries become self-reliant.

**Effect:** Local conflict over resources in developing countries hampers resiliency to recover from severe weather. Climate migration increases at scale.

## OUTDOOR WORK RESTRICTED

**Cause:** Temperatures outside in some areas increase to the level that outdoor work cannot be maintained for more than 2 hours.

**Effect:** Productivity levels drop for outdoor work. Cooling solutions introduced to maintain outdoor work without care to climate impacts. **2D**

## TIPPING OVER THE EDGE

**Cause:** Increased warming triggers a number of climate tipping points including permafrost melt throughout the arctic region.

**Effect:** The rate of temperature change accelerates leading to unstoppable climate change for future generations. **2F**

2100

## COMPARED TO TODAY

Drought Length	Sea Level Rise	Year-on-Year Climate Change-Related GDP Loss, 2100	Land Still Suitable for Growing Coffee, Compared to Today
18 months longer <sup>1</sup>	430m people displaced <sup>2</sup>	-\$9.59 Trillion/Year	48.5% <sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Naumann et al, "Global Changes in Drought Conditions Under Different Levels of Warming."  
<sup>2</sup> Strauss et al, "Mapping Choices: Carbon, Climate, and Rising Seas. Our Global Legacy."  
<sup>3</sup> Kompas et al, "The effects of climate change on GDP by country and the global economic gains from complying with the Paris Climate Accord."  
<sup>4</sup> Bunn et al, "A Bitter Cup: Climate Change Profile of Global Production of Arabica and Robusta Coffee."



3-4°C

