

Decarbonising Commercial Vessels

Angus McDonald
CEO, Maritime Impulse
August 2024

About Maritime Impulse

Maritime Impulse exists to help domestic commercial vessel (DCV) owners in Australia decarbonise their existing vessel fleets.



CEO & Co-Founder
Angus McDonald

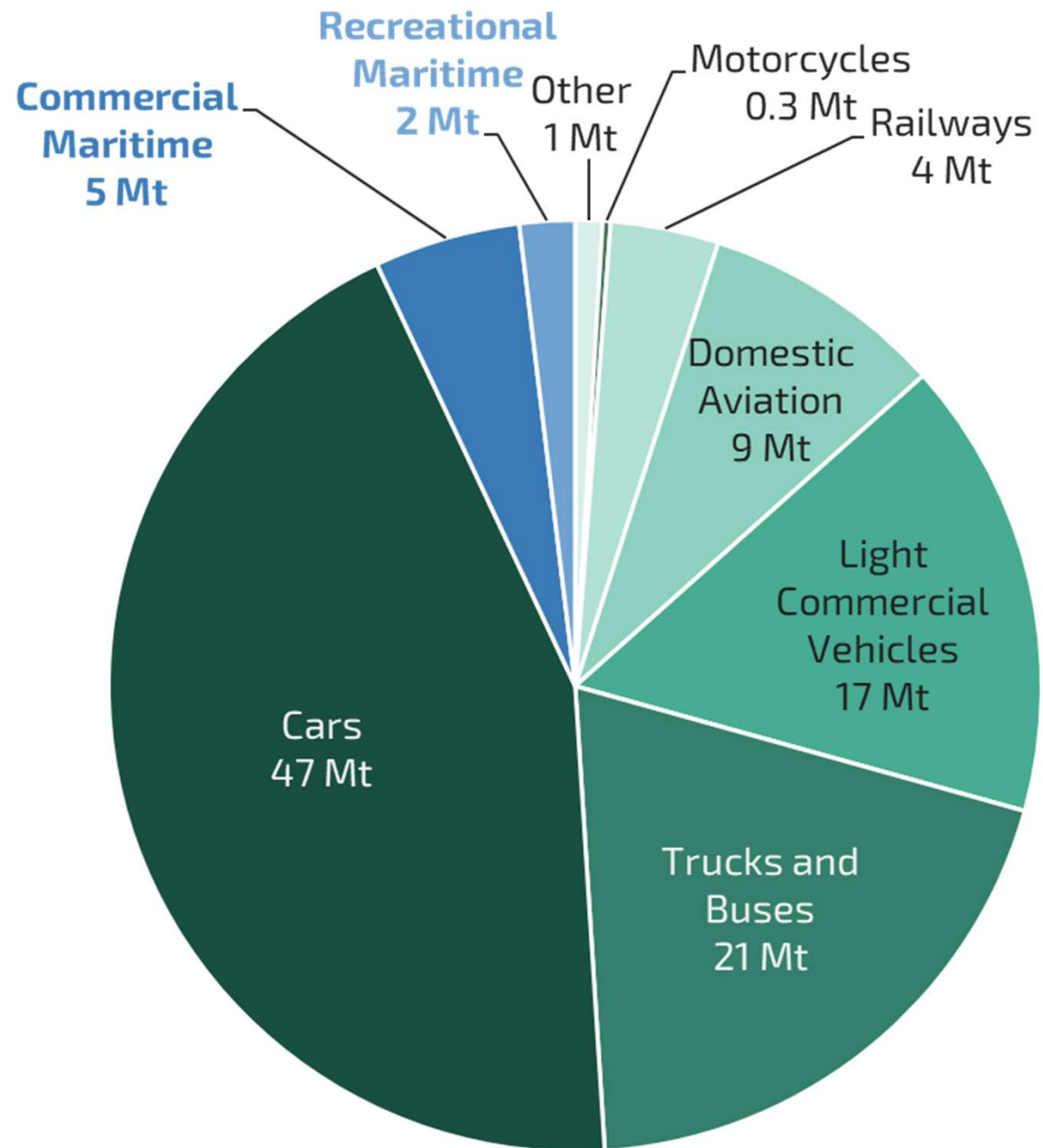


Director & Co-Founder
Christine McDonald

**Energy Optimisation &
Maritime Sustainability**

Maritime 
EMISSIONS REDUCTION
Coalition
(aka "MER)

**Maritime
IMPULSE**



<https://merc.blue/resources/>

NGA* says 2 Megatons CO₂-e

MERC found 6 to 7.4 Megatons CO₂-e

300% - 370% difference!

* National Greenhouse Accounts



A group of people are participating in a climate change protest. They are wearing large, wide-brimmed hats made of straw or woven material. Each hat has a large, rectangular sign attached to it. The signs are in various colors: orange, red, and blue. The text on the signs is handwritten in black ink. The first sign on the left says "I'M HOT". The second sign in the middle says "ME TOO". The third sign on the right says "ME THREE". The people are also holding smaller, circular signs. One is green with the text "Take care GARN" and another is pink with the text "Take care GARNIER". The background is slightly blurred, showing more people and what appears to be a green structure, possibly a tent or a wall.

Climate change is affecting us



Fact 1

Atmospheric CO₂ concentrations have increased



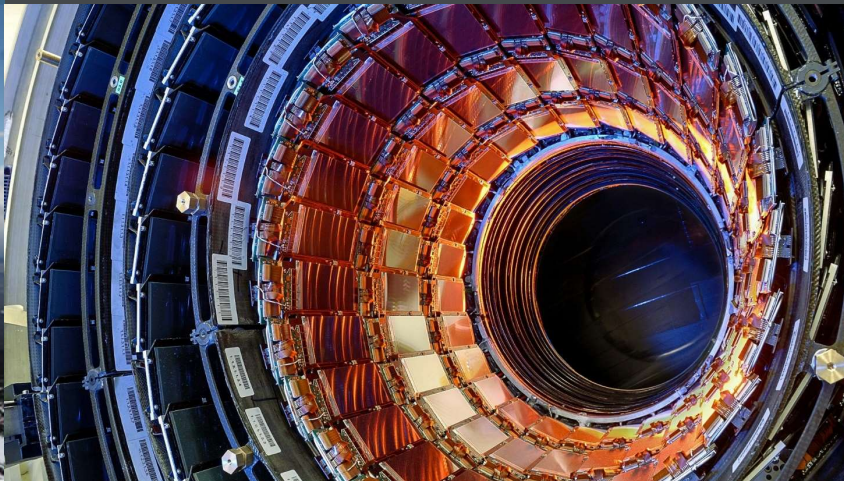
Fact 2

We caused the CO₂ increase, primarily by burning fossils

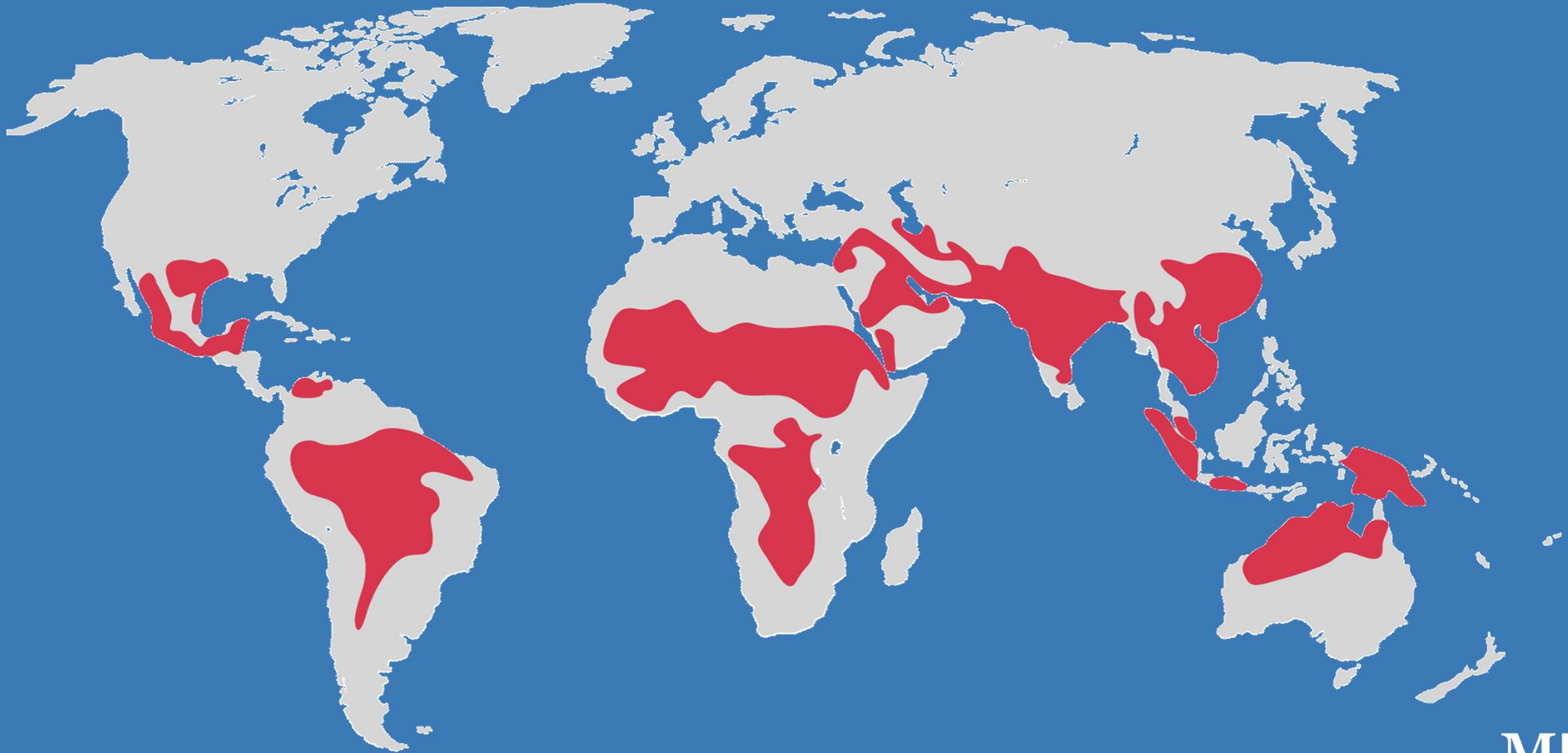


Fact 3

Extra CO₂ (and other greenhouse gases) cause radiative forcing



Lethal Wet Bulb Heat Risks at +2°C



Source: Met Office (UK)

MERC 

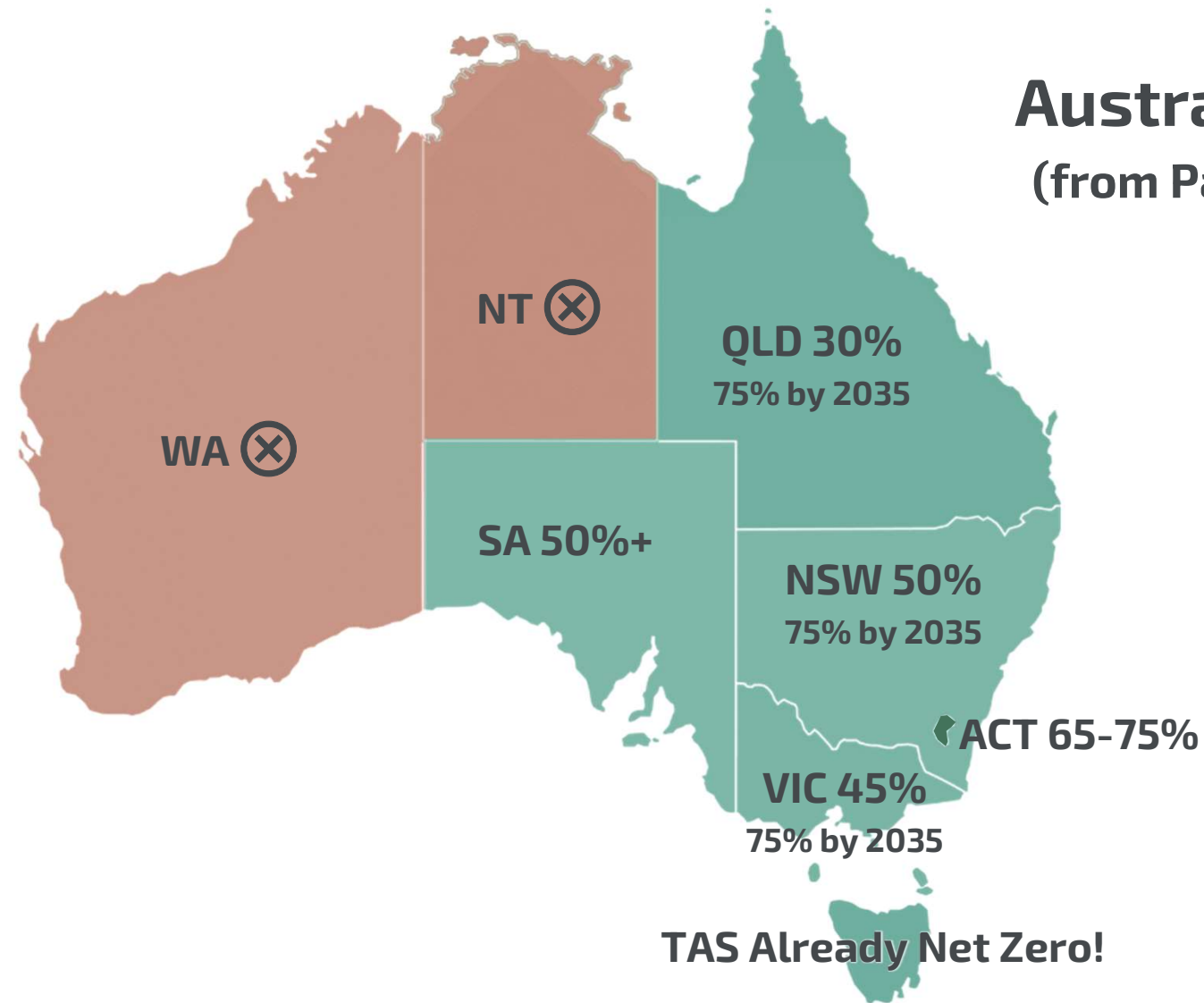


Business change *will* be required

Emissions reduction targets vs 2005?

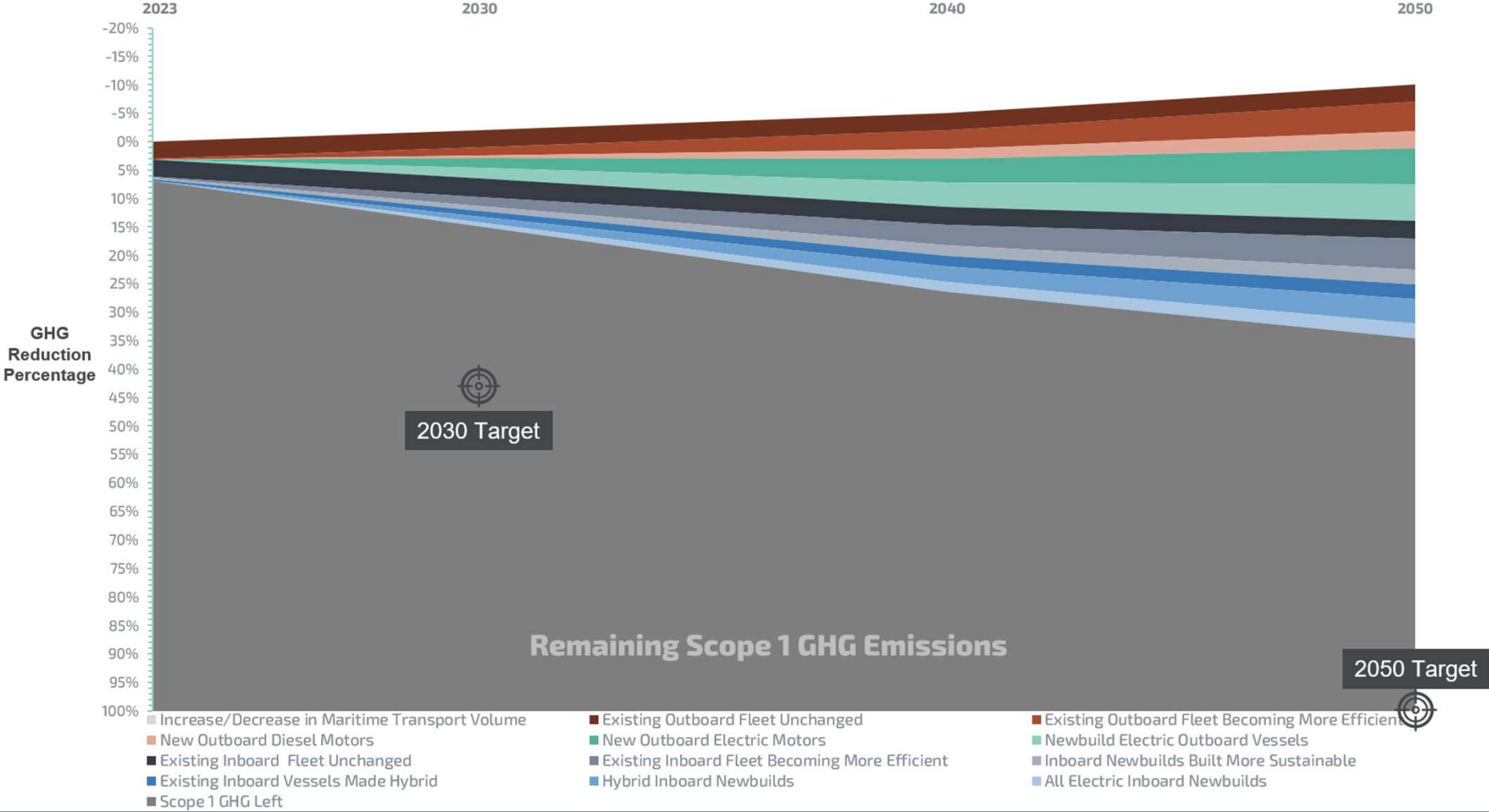


2030 emissions reduction targets

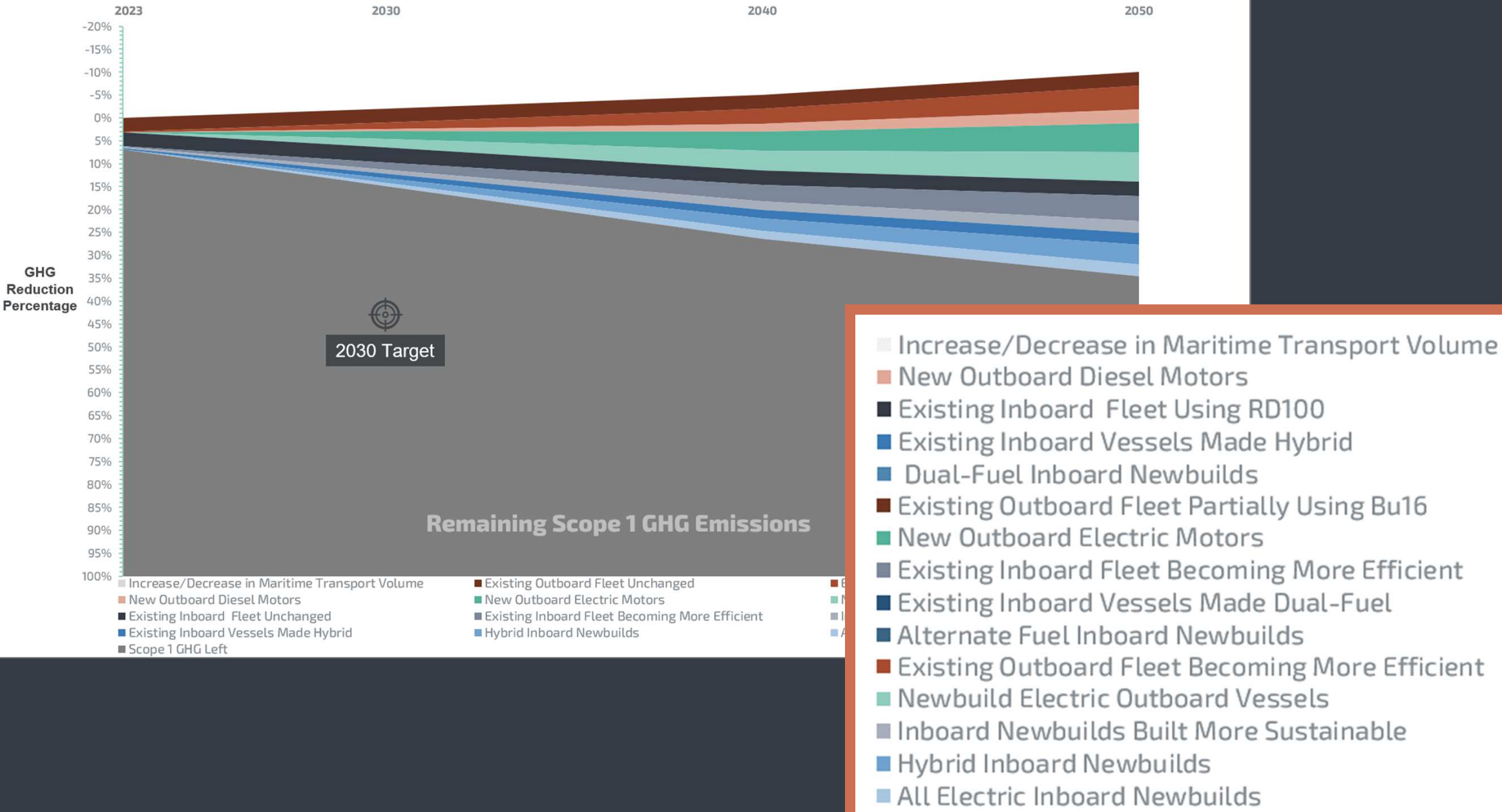


Australia's Target
(from Paris Agreement)
43%

Scenario 1 – BAU, Minimal Changes

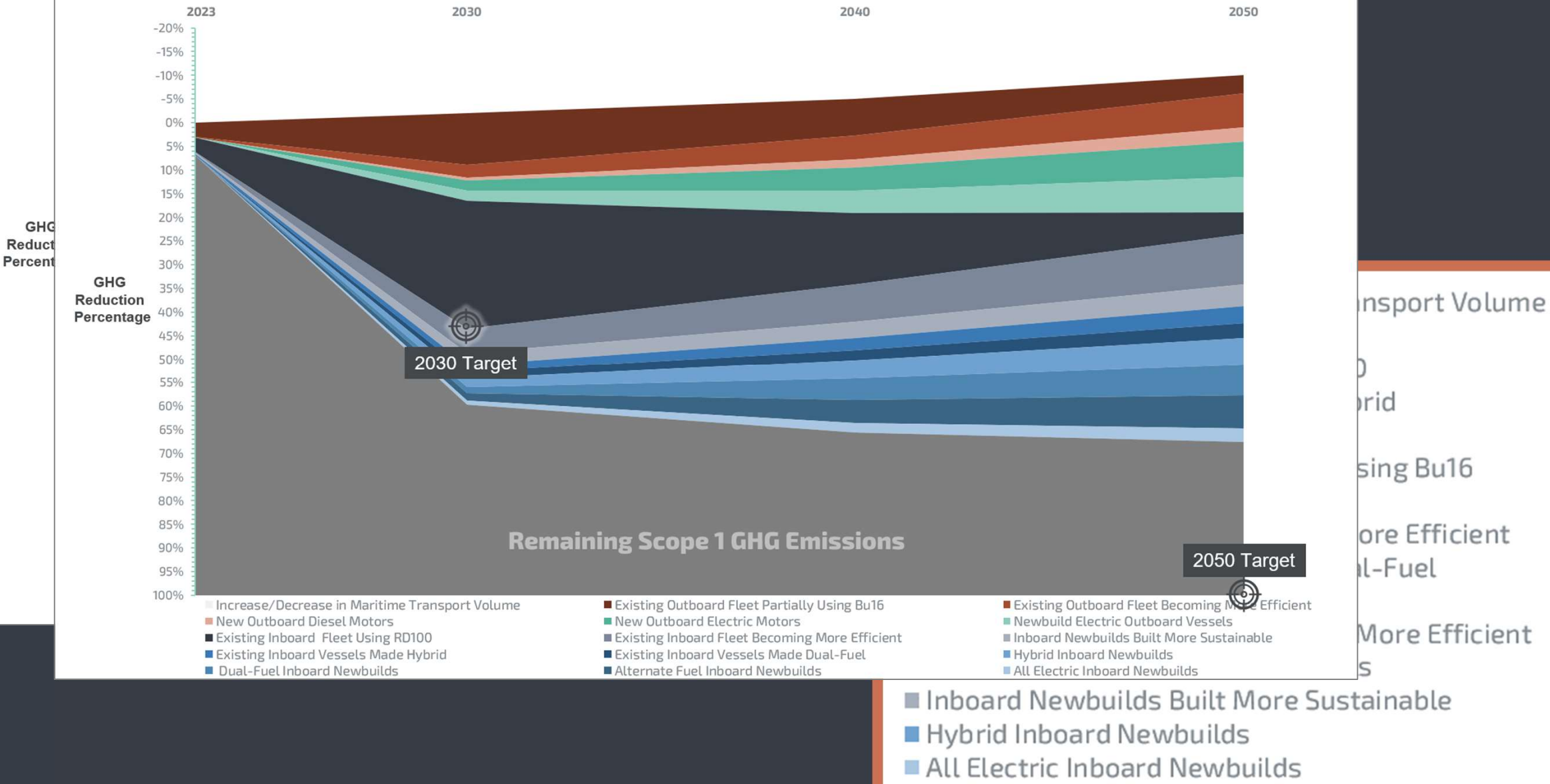


Scenario 1 – BAU, Minimal Changes



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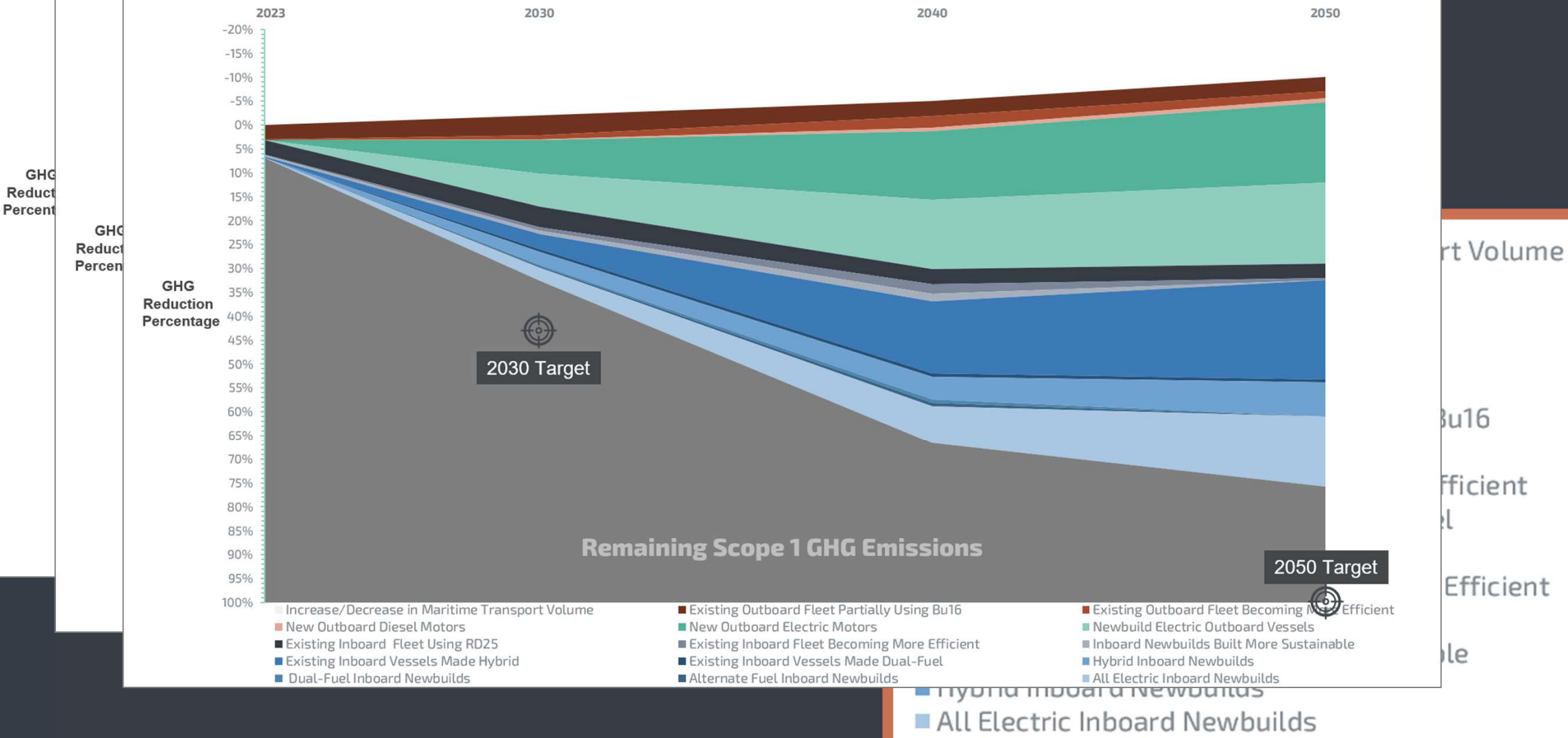
Scenario 2 – Plenty of Drop-in LCLFs



Scenario 1 – BAU, Minimal Changes

Scenario 2 – Plenty of Drop-in LCLFs

Scenario 3 – Battery Breakthrough

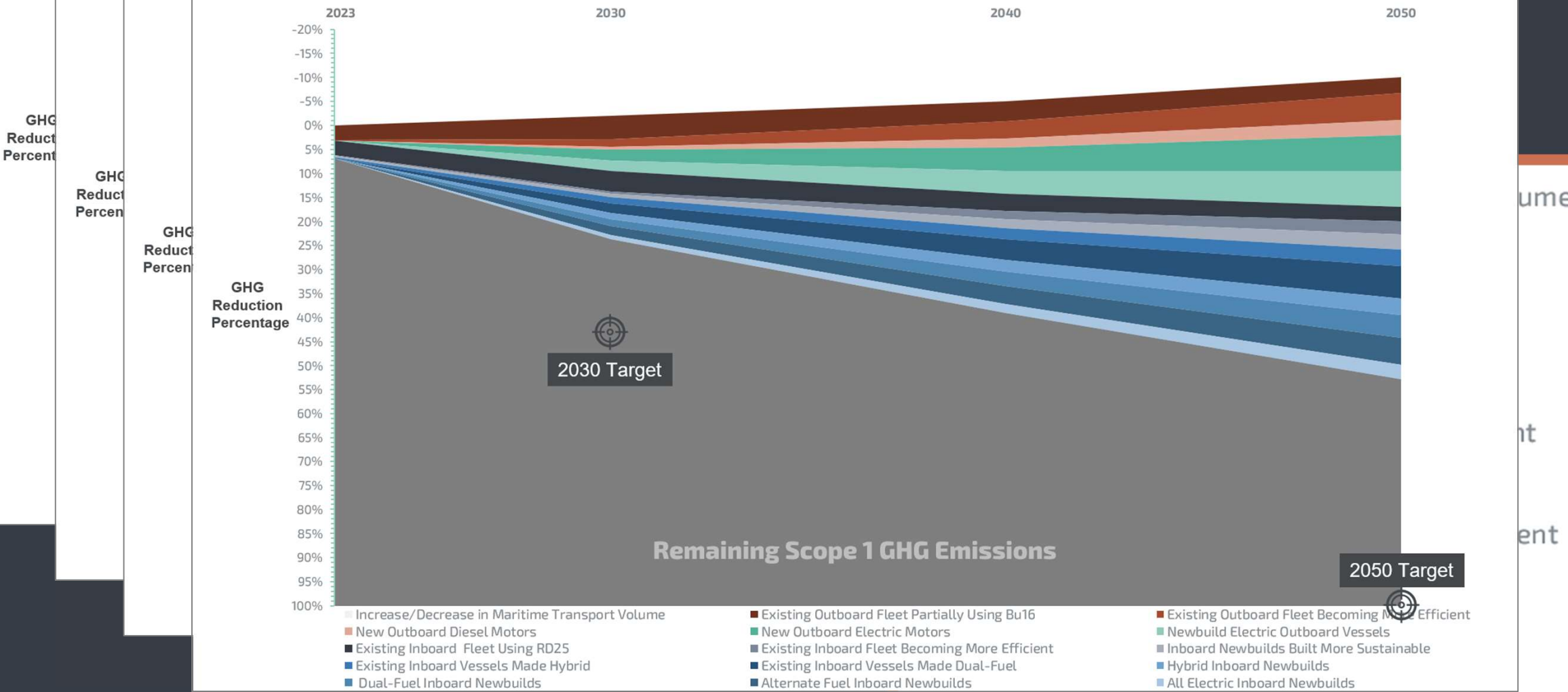


Scenario 1 – BAU, Minimal Changes

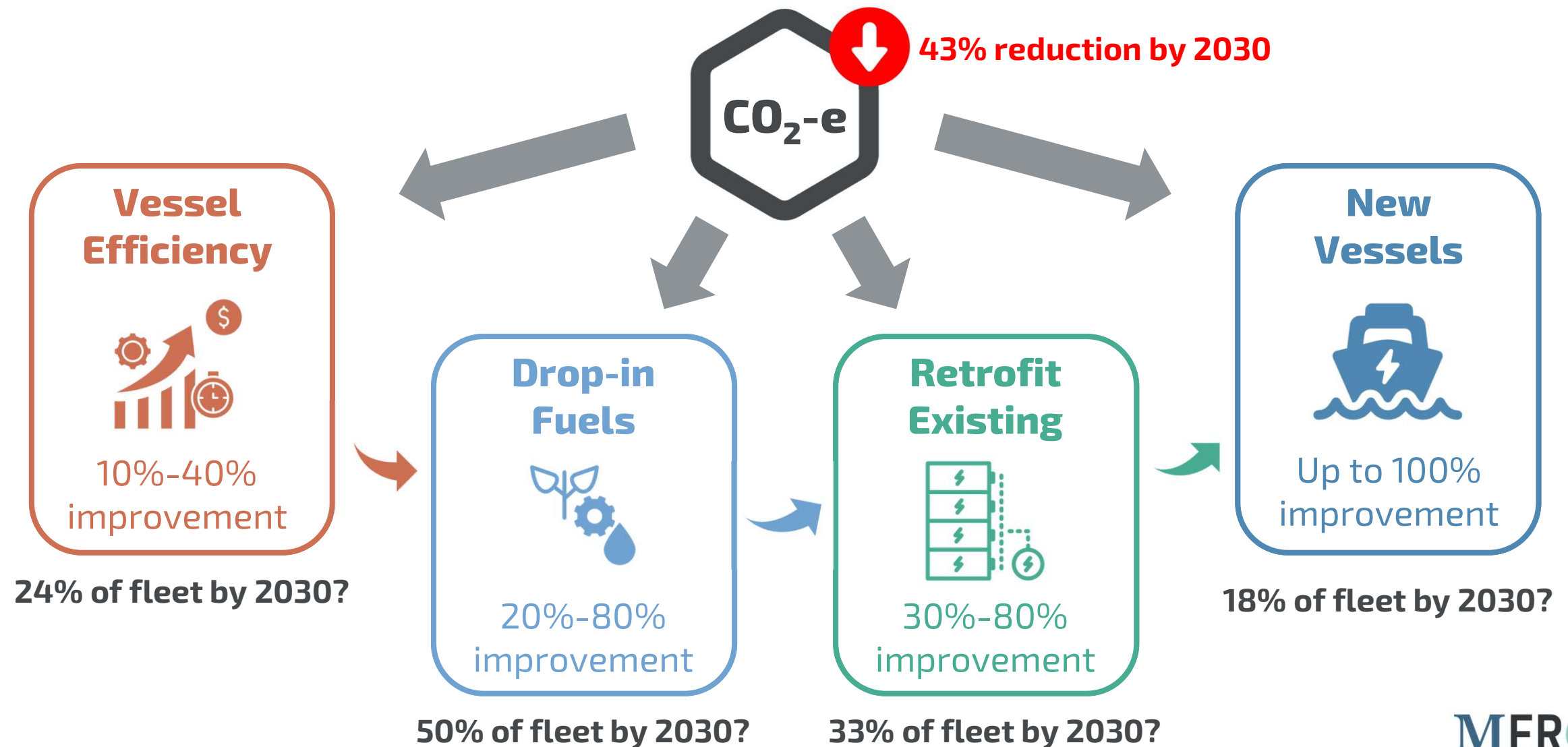
Scenario 2 – Plenty of Drop-in LCLFs

Scenario 3 – Battery Breakthrough

Scenario 4 – Hydrogen & E-fuels Breakthrough



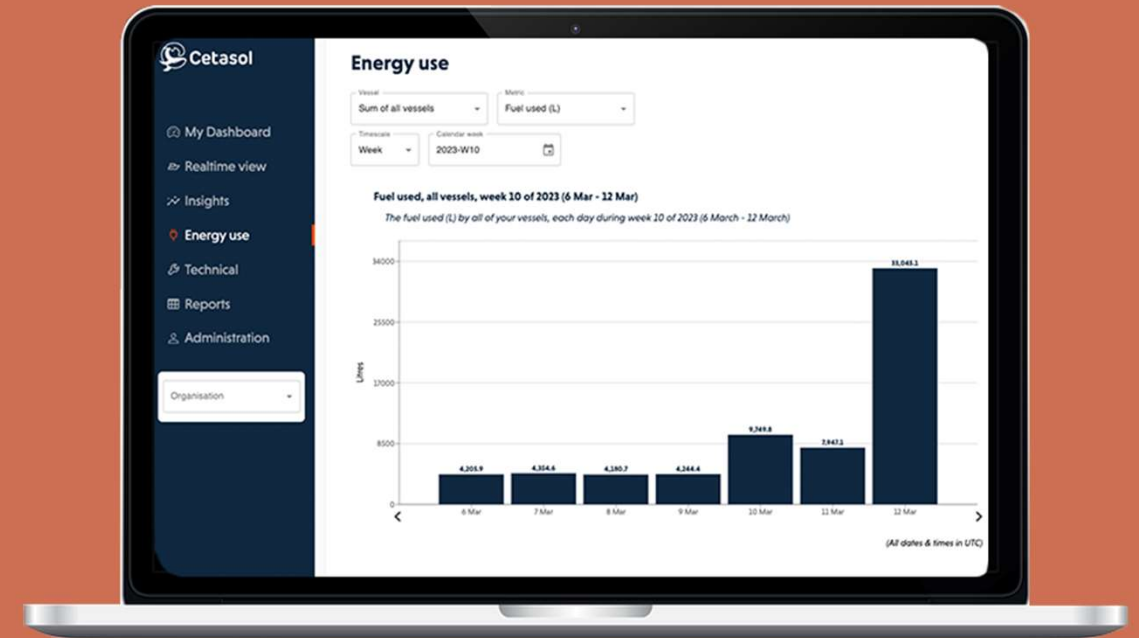
Plan A: Efficiency + Drop-in fuels + Electrify



Get energy smart



Energy costs are going up



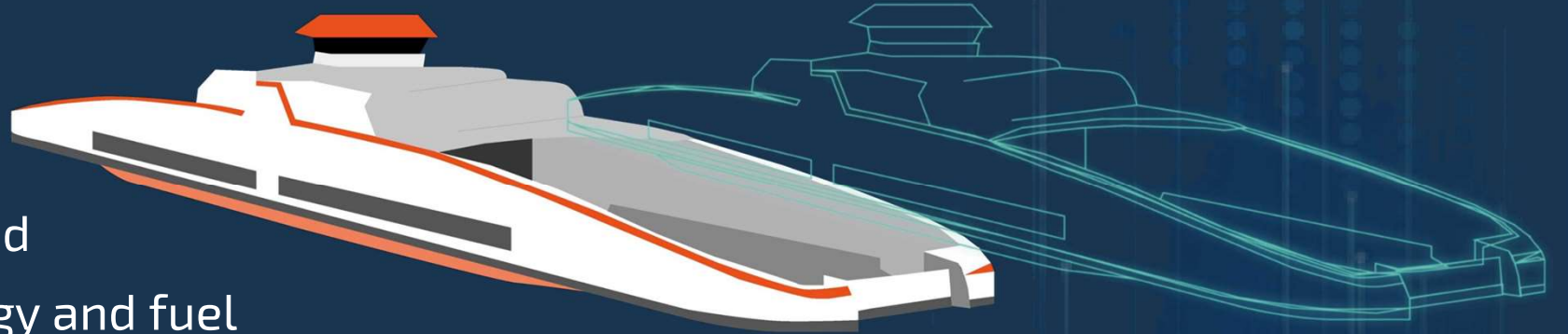
Good decisions need good data

Good energy data

iHelm Platform

A digital twin of your **vessel**.

- Helps optimise energy use
- Digitises all data points to cloud
- Captains use 10-15% less energy and fuel

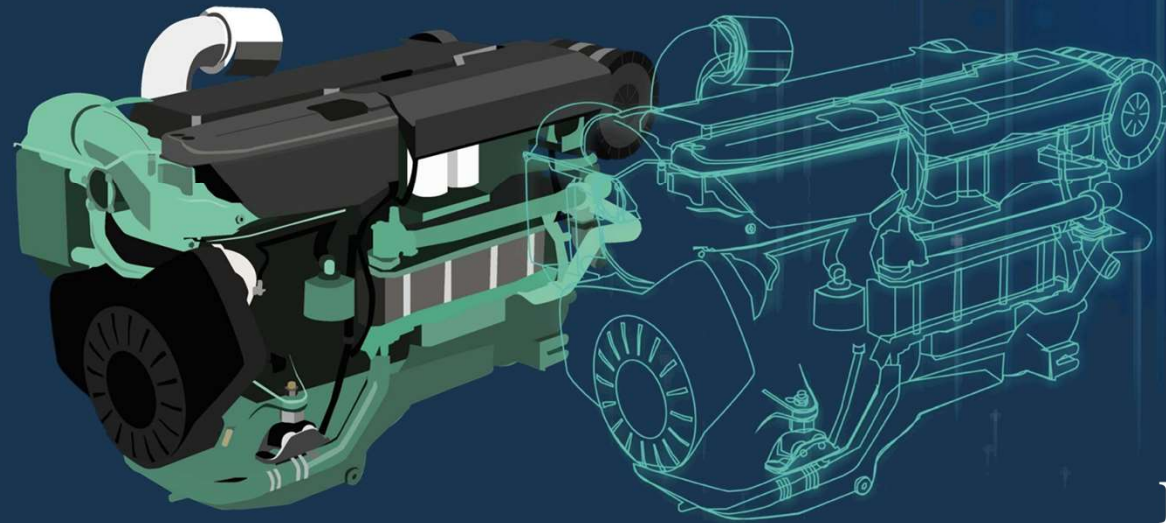


Digital Twins

Cetafuel Monitor

A digital twin of your **engine**.

- Monitors fuel flow virtually
- Only needs RPM, temp. and pressure
- 97%+ accuracy



Maritime
IMPULSE

Digitise with iHelm

The iHelm platform uses an **industrial PC** on the boat to capture data from a wide range of sensors and protocols.

The captain has a **monitor** to show them optimal energy use and guide their decisions.

The **cloud app** gives real-time view of the boat's data, and provides a reporting function.



Maritime
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A man in a Star Trek uniform, likely Captain Kirk, is shown from the chest up. He has a wide-eyed, open-mouthed expression of shock or surprise, with his hands raised in front of him, palms facing forward. The background is a blurred interior of a spaceship, with a blue wall and a wooden handrail visible. The overall tone is humorous and dramatic.

DECARBONISATION MYTHS

BUSTED!

MERC 

Myth: Hydrogen & e-fuels are the answer

Bad news for Hydrogen fuel and e-fuels derived from it:

17 Mt/yr Green Hydrogen projects have been announced globally for 2030.

But only **1.9 Mt/yr** has reached **Final Investment Decision** or is under construction.

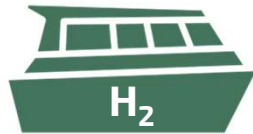
80 Mt/yr of Fossil Hydrogen is used **now** by industrial processes (fertiliser, etc.) and even more will be needed for green iron/steel.

If production targets are hit by 2030 then we will still see only **21% of existing Hydrogen uses** decarbonised.

Conclusion:

We can't afford to use Hydrogen as fuel, or to create e-fuels.

Myth: Hydrogen & e-fuels are the answer



Hydrogen Fuel-Cell

17% of Diesel

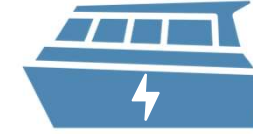
Non-existent - **major** work needed

38% Energy Usefully Used

Expensive, especially infrastructure

Much higher than Diesel

Much less **safe** than Diesel



Battery Electric

13% of Diesel

Available now - **minor** work in fast charging

80% Energy Usefully Used

Expensive, especially infrastructure

Much **lower** than Diesel

Slightly less **safe** than Diesel

RANGE

SUPPLY

EFFICIENCY

CAPITAL COST

OPERATING COST

SAFETY

Myth: Hydrogen & e-fuels are the answer

Price operators are willing
to PAY for Hydrogen fuel
(affordable)

Price producers are willing
to SELL Hydrogen fuel for
(profitable)

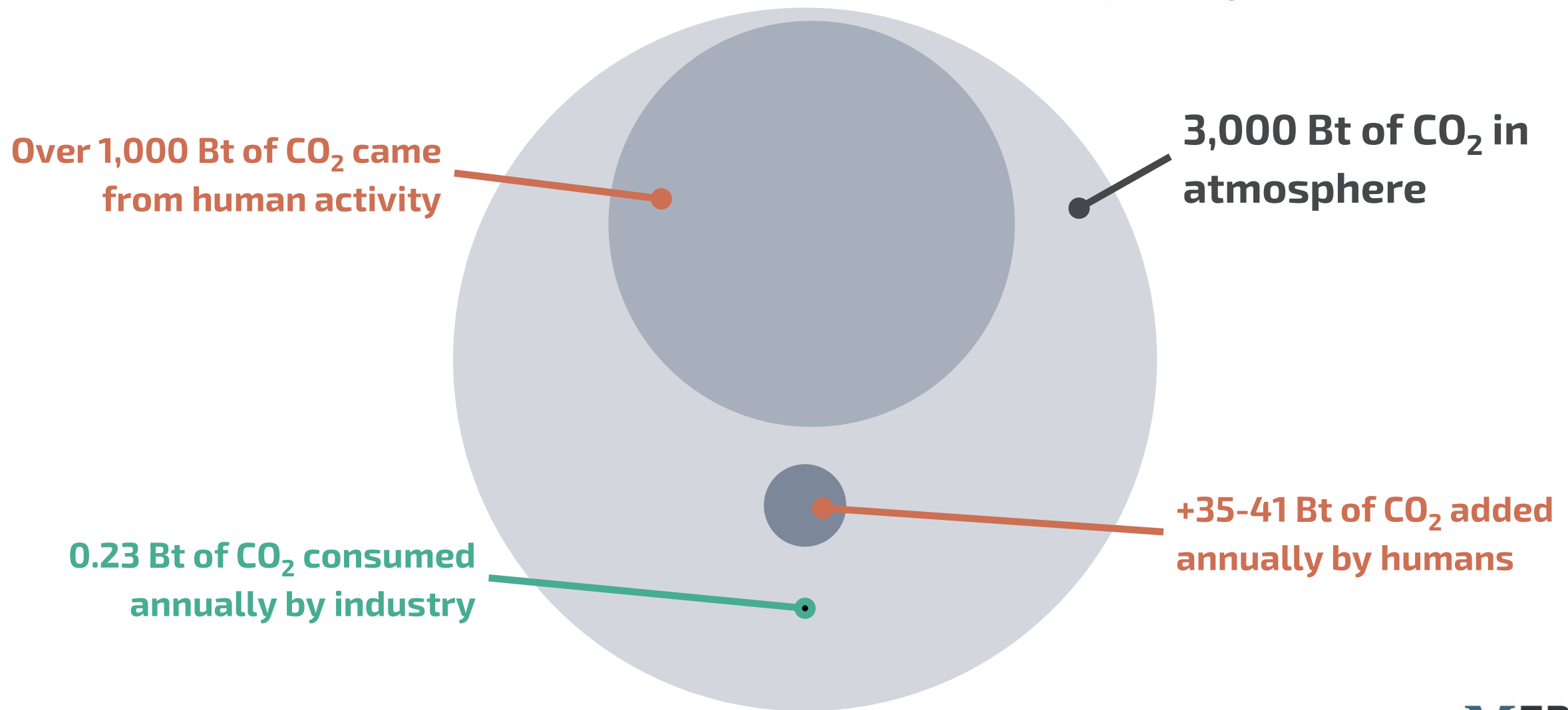
**MAGIC
HAPPENS!**

Transport and storage costs are high for
any colour Hydrogen,

Battery electric options keep falling in
price, Hydrogen *doesn't*, and

Governments must subsidise *operating*
expenses for it to happen.

Myth: Captured CO₂ will be valuable



Source: [Michael Barnard](#) Bt = Billion Tons



**+35-41 Bt of CO₂ added
annually by humans**

Conclusion:

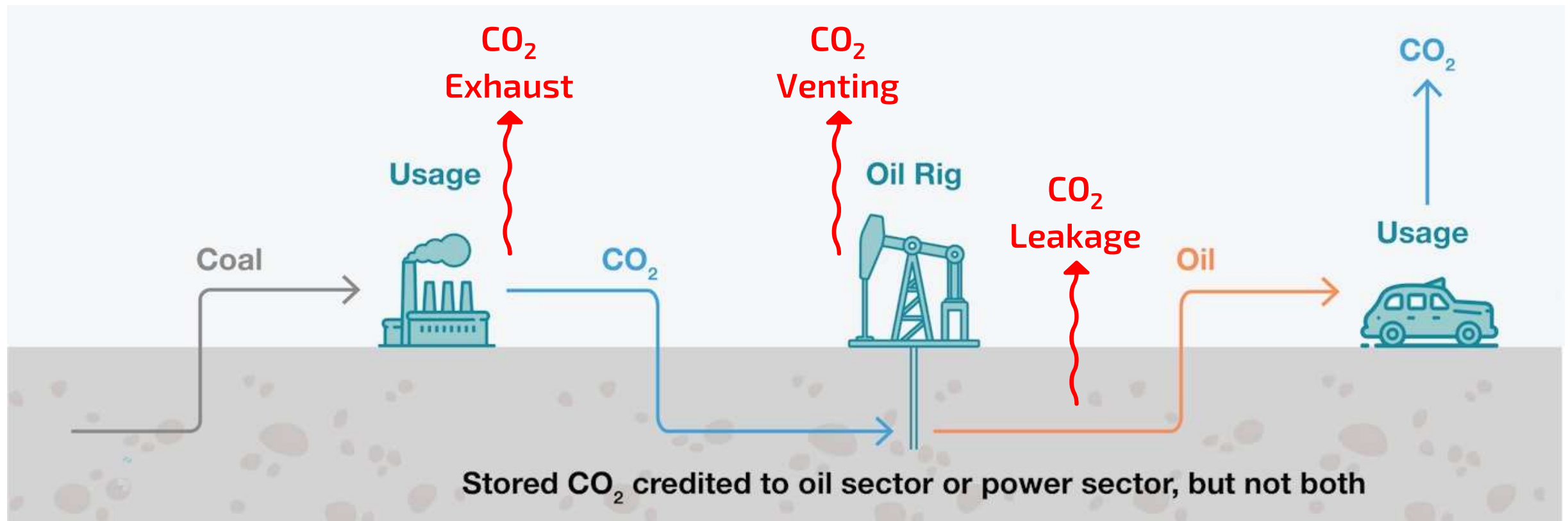
**There isn't much of a market
for captured CO₂**

It is WASTE, not resource

- **0.23 Bt of CO₂ consumed
annually by industry**

Myth: ~~CO₂ can be safely stored~~

Most CO₂ consumed by industry today is used for Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR), it pumps the CO₂ underground to release more oil, and often doesn't stay there.



Myth: Renewable diesel can save us alone



But the biomass it is made from is in high demand everywhere!

So, prices will **stay high** (about 3x fossil diesel).



Myth: Batteries are bad



They catch fire easily!

Rarely, and easily managed and prepared for.
(and becoming safer)



Electricity and water don't mix!

Marine battery systems are designed for that environment.
(and IP67 rated, etc.)



They are too expensive!

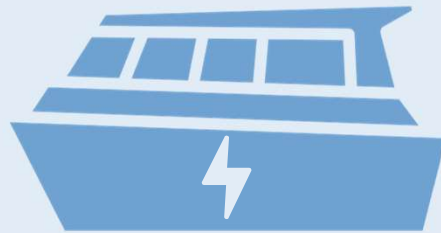
Cost more than a diesel system but are much cheaper to run.
(and getting cheaper)

Pragmatic actions we can take now

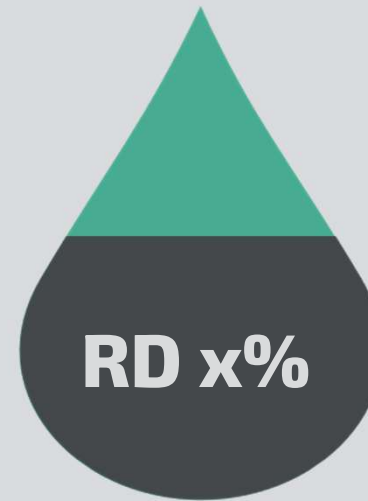
Energy Efficiency Measures



Greater Use of Battery Electric



Renewable Diesel Blending



Using Green Bio-Methanol



What changes with electrification?

Things we are used to having:

- Efficiency second to features
- Overpowered propulsion
- Excess range
- Extra fuel as ballast

Things we can do without:

- Rising fuel bills
- Noisy, shuddering, smoky engines
- Maintenance headaches

Things we need to have in the future:

- Super-efficient vessel designs
- Higher torque at lower power
- Accurate ability to predict range
- Differentiation (early mover)

Things we will get:

- Lower operating costs
- Quiet, steady, clean motors
- Batteries as permanent ballast

This means standard designs rule

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Courtesy of Tesla, Inc.

You need the right players on your team

Tech & Solution Providers



Systems Integrators



Manufacturers



Marine Service Providers



Boat Builders

Critical Stakeholders



Utilities



Ports, Harbours & Marinas



Fuel Co's

Key Enablers



Banks



Insurers



Government Org's



ACMG
AUSTRALIAN
COMMERCIAL
MARINE GROUP

MERC

MERC brings the right players together



MERC Steering Committee

MERC was founded in February 2024, with two seats for Maritime Impulse:



Angus McDonald
CEO & Co-Founder, MERC Chair
Maritime Impulse

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/angusmcdonald/>



Christine McDonald
Director & Co-Founder
Maritime Impulse

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/christinekolamcdonald/>

Three Member representatives were elected to the Steering Committee in July 2024:



Lynelle Johnson
Managing Director
Eclass Outboards

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/lynellejohnson/>



Dr Steve Mitchell
Engineering Manager
Ampcontrol

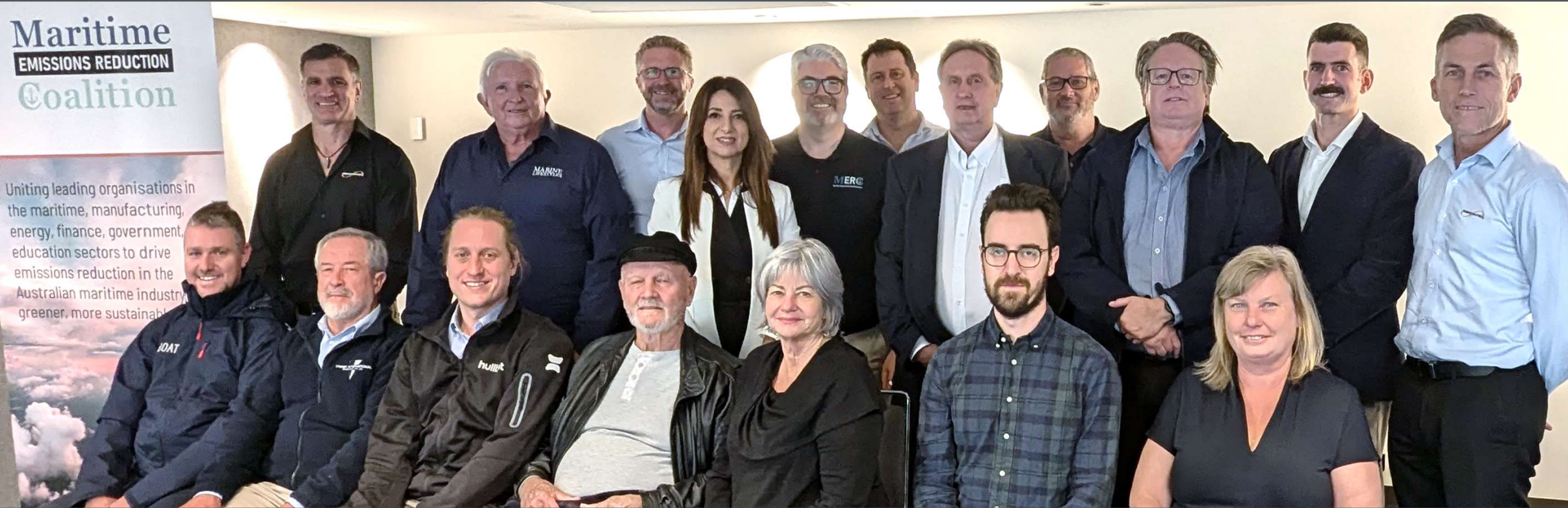
<https://www.linkedin.com/in/steven-d-mitchell/>



Brendan Cooley
Managing Director
IMS

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/brendancooley/>

MERC Founding Members



MARINE
LIFESTYLES

3ME
TECHNOLOGY

fibre™

AMPCONTROL®

REFUELLING
SOLUTIONS

hullbot

ECASS MARINE

EV MARITIME

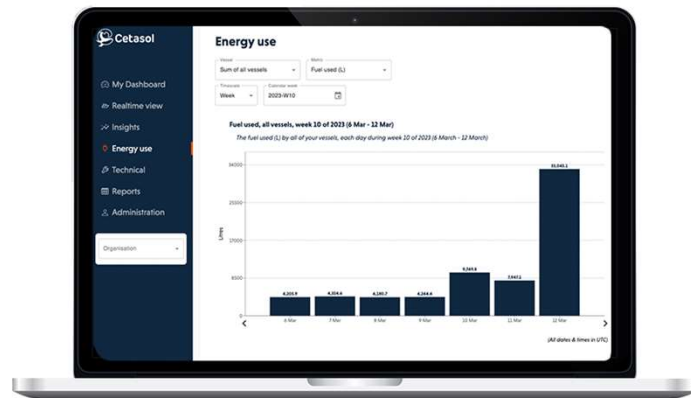
IMS.
Always delivering.

STEBER INTERNATIONAL
STEBERCRAFT PTY. LTD.

GOBOAT

Get Energy Smart

Digitise and get the data you need to help you navigate the future.



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<https://maritimeimpulse.org>

Join MERC

Want to help accelerate the industry's decarbonisation journey? Find out more.

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Coalition

<https://www.merc.blue/>

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