



CLIMATE LEADERSHIP DECLARATION

On the occasion of the Ecocity World Summit 2017 in Melbourne, Australia, and our meeting with the Hon Mr Al Gore, former Vice President of the United States of America, we declare that:

PREAMBLE

Climate change is one of the greatest challenges – and greatest opportunities – facing the Australian community today. Our jurisdictions are working across international and interstate boundaries, in partnership with business, community groups, investors and others to reduce the risks of climate change, and capitalise on the benefits the transition to a net zero emissions future brings.

We support Australia's ratification and implementation of the Paris Climate Agreement – the foundation for strong and coordinated global action. We believe Australia must play its full and fair part in global efforts to keep warming well below two degrees Celsius (2°C) relative to preindustrial levels and pursue efforts to limit warming to 1.5°C. To achieve this goal, countries like Australia must rapidly reduce their carbon emissions. Strong national policy is essential if Australia is to meet its global obligations.

We accept our responsibility to help ensure Australia meets its obligations. States and territories have an important role to play in cutting carbon pollution and building climate resilience in our communities. We have all committed to reducing our emissions to net zero by 2050. The shift to a cleaner economy not only reduces climate risk, but also drives new investment and jobs growth. The renewable energy and new energy technologies sectors are some of the world's fastest growing sectors. This is evident not only in our own jurisdictions, but in the experience of leading sub-national governments such as the world's sixth largest economy, California.

In each of our jurisdictions we are pursuing climate goals in tandem with our other objectives – including stimulating economic and jobs growth, and encouraging innovation and technology development. We have different economies, resource endowments, and competitive advantages, and we recognise that our emissions reduction efforts must meet our industries' and communities' needs, including structural and social transitions that are fair and just. We are in no doubt that sustained, strong action to reduce our carbon emissions to net zero by 2050, and to understand and prepare for the impacts of climate change, will safeguard our collective wellbeing and prosperity now and into the future.

STATE AND TERRITORY HIGHLIGHTS

Action underway in Victoria

Victoria's new world leading *Climate Change Act 2017* lays the foundations for Victoria to achieve the Andrews Labor Government's vision of a net zero emissions, climate resilient community and economy. The Act includes a target of net zero emissions by 2050, and, in line with the Paris Climate Agreement, requires five-yearly interim targets and strategies to set the path to net zero. As a first step, Victoria will reduce its emissions to 15-20 per cent below 2005 levels by 2020. Leading by example, the government will reduce emissions from its own operations to 30 per cent below 2015 levels by 2020. This commitment forms part of Victoria's Take2 pledge program, a state-wide initiative through which local governments, businesses and the community are all taking action and contributing to Victoria's emission reduction goals.

Victoria's Climate Change Adaptation Plan 2017–2020 is helping Victoria prepare for the impacts of climate change. As a first and crucial step, the government is developing a detailed picture of projected climate change in Victoria, and examining the vulnerability of our regions and industries to climate impacts. This will help government, business and the community better understand the risks, and manage them effectively. The plan also includes coordination and action across industry sectors, regions and local communities.

Energy accounts for more than three quarters of Victoria's emissions, so the transition to a clean energy system is a cornerstone of Victoria's climate action. The government has set Victoria on the path to a renewable, affordable and reliable energy system, with ambitious and achievable renewable energy generation targets of 25 per cent by 2020 and 40 per cent by 2025. The government is catalysing new technologies and business models, and building the skills and capabilities needed to support growth. These actions are attracting jobs and investment to Victoria, growing the renewable energy sector and improving energy productivity in our businesses, homes and across government. The government is also supporting regional communities most affected by the energy transition, including through the Latrobe Valley Economic Development Program and Economic Facilitation Fund.

The government recognises that action on climate change is everyone's responsibility, and that we must accelerate the rate of climate change innovation at all levels. The government's new Virtual Centre for Climate Change Innovation program will bring Victorian businesses, researchers, communities and government together to develop new solutions to climate challenges. The Virtual Centre program will support projects to reduce emissions and build climate resilience across all regions of Victoria.

Action underway in South Australia

South Australia continues to lead Australia's efforts to transition to a low-carbon economy and boost renewable energy. Having led the nation in finding cleaner ways of generating electricity, the state is now partnering with leading international companies to build the world's largest lithium-ion battery, the next step in the renewable energy revolution occurring around the world. South Australia's leadership has been replicated by other states. It was the first jurisdiction in Australia to introduce climate change specific legislation, the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Emissions Reduction Act 2007*, the first to adopt a target of zero net emissions by 2050 and the first to support the uptake of solar photovoltaics (PV) with a premium solar feed in tariff.

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Collaboration and partnership have been at the heart of South Australia's efforts to respond to climate change. The Weatherill Government has worked with community, business groups and environmental organisations and together they have shown it is possible to decouple economic growth from carbon pollution. Emissions are 8 per cent lower than the 1990 baseline while the economy has grown over 70 per cent in this time.

South Australia is close to reaching its target of powering the state through 50 per cent renewable energy and over \$7 billion has already been invested in this sector with almost 50 per cent being in regional South Australia. Nearly one in three homes in the state now have solar on their rooftops.

South Australia has also pioneered an internationally recognised and nationally award winning Climate Change Adaptation Framework which has now seen all regions in the state develop local adaptation plans. South Australia is also committed to kick starting the carbon sequestration industry, helping protect the environment while providing new sources of income for those who work on the land.

The state actively promotes climate action locally, nationally and internationally. South Australia is a founding co-chair of The Climate Group's States and Regions Alliance, with Premier Weatherill leading the way in demonstrating the importance of climate action at a sub-national government level.

In a globally unique partnership, the South Australian Government and City of Adelaide are committed to the ambitious target of making Adelaide the world's first carbon-neutral city. Its emissions have reduced by an estimated 14 per cent from 2007 to 2014 while its economy grew by 28 per cent. Adelaide's robust emissions inventory has been recognised, with Adelaide now ranked by the Carbon Disclosure Project as one of the top ten cities in the world for climate change reporting.

Governments, business and the community must work together to achieve a Carbon Neutral city ambition. Consequently, the Carbon Neutral Adelaide Partnership Programme, launched in May 2017, has well over 45 Founding Partner organisations and 1,000 individuals subscribed to-date. Businesses, universities, NGOs and government are all taking a leadership role in transitioning Adelaide to a smart, sustainable 21st century city.

Action underway in Queensland

The Palaszczuk Labor Government is committed to playing its part in the global effort to address the impacts of climate change and ensure the long-term viability of Queensland's economy, communities and industries.

The Queensland Government is taking action to transition to a low carbon, clean growth economy and adapt to the impacts of a changing climate. Its vision is a zero net emissions future for Queensland that supports jobs, industries, communities and our environment.

Queensland's headline climate change commitments are:

1. Powering Queensland with a 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030.
2. Queensland doing its fair share in the global effort to arrest damaging climate change by achieving zero net emissions by 2050.
3. Demonstrating Queensland's commitment to reducing carbon pollution by setting an interim emissions reductions target of at least 30 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030.

Reducing emissions is a priority for high-carbon economies like Queensland's. These targets will guide policy and drive the investment needed to put Queensland on the path to a zero net emissions economy. Through the transition, Queensland will continue to value its workers, supporting them

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through inevitable economic change. The Government will continue to engage with industry and the innovation and investment sectors while building the capacity of Queensland communities to gain from place-based opportunities in the new economy.

To support innovative climate change projects, the Queensland Government is partnering with the Climate KIC network and engaging with the start-up community to promote zero net emissions innovation in action. This aligns with the Queensland Government's Advance Queensland initiative to create the knowledge-based jobs of the future.

The Palaszczuk Government's commitment to clean energy will create new jobs by driving investment and diversifying the State's economy, particularly in regional centres. Queensland's high uptake of solar photovoltaics is already helping lower electricity costs for families and businesses while creating jobs and protecting the environment.

The Queensland Climate Adaptation Strategy provides a framework for mainstreaming climate adaptation into local, regional and state decision-making and planning processes. Through its partnerships approach, the Queensland Government is working with key industry stakeholders to develop specific sector adaptation plans, and with local governments to develop and deliver the Queensland Climate Resilient Councils program for guiding local adaptation planning. To guide this collaborative planning, Queensland is refining and updating its regional climate change projections data and impact summaries.

Action underway in the Australian Capital Territory

The ACT is committed to taking action on climate change, and has been recognised as an international leader for its ambitious targets and innovative policies that have succeed in driving investment in renewable energy, reducing emissions and creating new, sustainable, jobs in the ACT.

The ACT has adopted ambitious targets for reducing emissions and increasing the use of renewable energy. These targets are designed to keep us on track—moving forward—and make the ACT a sustainable and carbon neutral city.

The ACT has committed to:

- A 100 per cent renewable electricity target to be achieved by 2020. The ACT has made use of a highly successful 'reverse-auction' approach to securing the necessary investment to reach this target.
- A commitment to achieving zero net emissions by 2050 at the latest, with an interim target of reducing emissions by 40 per cent below 1990 levels by 2020.
- A commitment to achieving carbon neutrality in government operations by 2020, and
- Implementation of the ACT's Climate Change Adaptation Strategy that will support Canberra in increasing its resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change impacts.

The ACT is also supporting businesses to diversify the ACT economy and seize the economic opportunities that come with leadership in tackling climate change and supporting the emerging clean energy sector.

The ACT Government is delivering the Next Generation Battery Storage program to reduce network infrastructure costs and support the transition to a high penetration renewable electricity grid, supporting the installation up to 5,000 battery storage systems across the ACT.

To support innovation, the ACT Government has established the Renewable Energy Innovation Fund to realise the Government's vision for the ACT as an internationally recognised centre for renewable

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energy innovation and investment, diversifying the economy and creating new export industries. In addition, the ACT Government has established the Renewable Energy Innovation Hub, a collaborative working space bringing together innovative start-ups and organisations in Australia and around the world to develop the ACT's vibrant renewable energy and clean technology sectors.

The ACT is working to assist households and businesses to improve their energy efficiency through the Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme with a focus on reducing energy costs for small business and low income households.

To support the development of low emission modes of transport, the ACT Government has committed \$180 million towards the development of renewable hydrogen production, storage and transport projects in the ACT.

The ACT Government continues to investigate ways it can take greater action to tackle climate change and support the ACT emerging as a truly sustainable economy and is currently developing a 'Blueprint for a zero emissions Territory – ACT's Climate strategy to 2050' to further evolve our current climate change strategy.

NEXT STEPS

As signatories to this declaration, we will:

- Continue to support and encourage strong and effective climate action at the local, state and national level, including through the Climate Action Roundtable and other Ministerial forums.
- Support the orderly transition to a clean, secure, reliable and affordable energy system for all Australians, including by collaborating across energy and climate change portfolios to agree a response to the Independent Review into the Future Security of the National Electricity Market (the Finkel Review), and a pathway for joint implementation.
- Continue to work together to improve energy productivity through the implementation of the National Energy Productivity Plan, including measures to improve the energy efficiency of the built environment.
- Work in partnership through the Australian Climate Knowledge and Innovation Community (Climate KIC Australia) – a new collaboration linking businesses, entrepreneurs, research, investors, and governments – to address the climate challenge and capitalise on the global opportunities this presents.
- Share knowledge and expertise with our counterparts overseas, including through active membership of The Climate Group's States and Regions Alliance and the Under2 Coalition.
- Consider opportunities for multi-state collaboration on the promotion, procurement and use of electric and zero emission vehicles and the provision of charging infrastructure.

We welcome the invitation from Governor Edmund G Brown Jr of California to share lessons and insights from California's experience in combatting climate change while growing a clean energy economy.

We will progress discussions at the next meeting of the Climate Action Roundtable in Adelaide, and work with our counterparts in other states, with a view to states meeting later this year to agree priorities and actions for subnational and trans-Pacific collaboration on climate change.

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SIGNATURES



Lily D'Ambrosio MP
Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change
Minister for Suburban Development
Victoria



Ian Hunter MLC
Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation
Minister for Water and the River Murray
Minister for Climate Change
South Australia



Jackie Trad MP
Deputy Premier
Minister for Transport
Minister for Infrastructure and Planning
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Shane Rattenbury MLA
Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability
Minister for Justice, Consumer Affairs and Road Safety
Minister for Corrections
Minister for Mental Health
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