



CLIMATE ACTION ROUNDTABLE

A Communiqué from the Second Climate Action Roundtable

23 February 2017 | Cairns, Queensland

We, the members of the Climate Action Roundtable, have a common commitment to ambitious climate change action to meet the climate goals laid out in the Paris Agreement, and to a just transition to low carbon societies.

URGENCY OF ACTION

We witness the devastating effects of a warming climate across the Australian landscape and on all the sectors of our community, as clearly evidenced by warmer ocean temperatures harming our Great Barrier Reef. As subnational governments leading on climate action, we acknowledge the urgency of the need for action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and where possible to adapt to the impacts of climate change.

We congratulate the Victorian Government on their Climate Change Act passed today, that legislates a target of reaching net-zero emissions by 2050, and setting five yearly interim targets to set out the pathways to reach it.

Victoria's example, and the work of other Australian states, territories and cities to address the impacts of climate change show the Commonwealth Government how to deliver on the commitments that Prime Minister Turnbull signed up to at the COP21 in Paris.

We look to the Commonwealth Government to put aside partisan debates and work with the community, business, cities, states and territories to deliver a plan that moves Australia to the net zero emission target by 2050 required by the Paris agreement.

2017 NATIONAL REVIEW

We underline the importance of the Australian Government being resolute in its commitment to all aspects of the Paris Agreement. We highlight the need for the Australian Government to use its review of Australia's climate change policies to establish and implement policies that enable Australia to play its full part in efforts to



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hold global average temperature increase to well below 2°C and actively pursue efforts to keep warming below 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels.

We note that for Australia to play its full part in holding warming well below 2°C, Australia's emissions will be required to be net-zero by the second half of this century. It is therefore imperative that Australia's 2030 target for emissions reductions is set at a level consistent with the cost-effective delivery of the objectives of the Paris Agreement.

We call on the Australian Government to use the national review to establish the foundations for a bipartisan approach to climate change policy which provides business, investors and society with certainty over Australia's transition to a net zero emissions economy. This requires the urgent and effective integration of energy and climate policy, as well as the integration of climate policy with other key areas including transport, planning, building and agriculture. We emphasise the need for certainty in policy for business, investors and society, and note the importance of implementing cost-effective measures that enable Australia to seize the opportunities for sustainable economic development and enhanced international competitiveness that the shift to a net-zero emissions economy presents.

In this light, we commit to collaborating in consideration of the national review and responding in a way that demonstrates the shared interests of states, territories and cities in the development and implementation of an effective national policy framework for reducing Australia's emissions over the coming decades.

FORWARD WORK PROGRAM

Each of our sub-national jurisdictions is already working to achieve the transition to net zero emissions in every sector of our economies and societies. By working collectively we can magnify the impact of our interventions and more quickly realise of the advantages of moving to more efficient, clean and smart economies that are fit for the 21st century.

We therefore commit to exploring further where collaboration between our jurisdictions can deliver improved climate change outcomes. Further to the discussions at our first meeting, we will focus our consideration in the following areas:

- Energy efficient built environment, to be led by Australian Capital Territory



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- The transition to renewable energy including energy storage and low emission vehicles, to be led by South Australia
- Partnership opportunities, to be led by Queensland.

We pledge jointly to consider our responses to the national review and will report back on the specific opportunities for significant joint enterprise at our next meeting within six months at the invitation of South Australia.

This communiqué from the second meeting of the Climate Action Roundtable is endorsed by the following:

Australian Capital Territory Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability, Shane Rattenbury, MLA;

Queensland Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef, Hon Dr Steven Miles, MP;

South Australian Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation and Minister for Climate Change, Hon Ian Hunter, MLC;

City of Adelaide, Lord Mayor, Councillor Martin Haese;

Cairns Regional Council, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Terry James;

City of Darwin, Alderman Garry Lambert;

Douglas Shire Council, Lord Mayor, Councillor Julia Leu;

City of Hobart, Alderman Bill Harvey;

City of Ipswich, Chief Operations Officer, Mr Sean Madigan;

City of Sydney, Chief Executive Officer, Ms. Monica Barone.