



CLIMATE ACTION ROUNDTABLE

A Communiqué from the Climate Action Roundtable: Transitioning to low-carbon societies

26 August 2016 | Canberra, ACT, Australia

We, the members of the Climate Action Roundtable, have a common commitment to climate change action and to a just transition to low carbon societies. Each of our sub-national jurisdictions is working to further these goals. We now pledge to do even more collectively.

Transitioning to low-carbon societies that incorporate smarter, cleaner, and more resilient infrastructure and services increases local social and economic opportunity whilst reducing the emissions responsible for global climate change. Nearly every sector is involved in the transition, including agriculture, transport, energy generation, environmental and wildlife protection, manufacturing, mining, building and construction, waste and resource management, education, finance and diplomacy. By leading, we will more quickly reap the environmental and economic benefits.

Many of our jurisdictions are achieving nation-leading targets for the uptake of renewable energy and the rapid decline of greenhouse gas emissions. Our combined commitments for net zero emissions by 2050 or sooner already represent one-third of the total Australian population.

Sub-national governments in Australia understand the complex interconnectivity of human and natural resources, land and city, and risk and opportunity. We embrace this interconnectivity as the path to a healthier, more prosperous, and more sustainable low-carbon future for our citizens. Where some see only change, we see opportunity.

We believe that the diversity, strengths, and creativity of Australian states, territories, and cities provide strong reasons to work cooperatively to achieve our climate action goals. That is why we have met today at the inaugural Climate Action Roundtable meeting in Canberra, with the commitment to work collectively to deliver low-carbon social and economic benefits to our jurisdictions, whilst helping to deliver effective climate action for all.



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In particular, we have agreed the following areas as priorities:

- Ensuring the development and implementation of effective national climate change policy settings, in recognition of the 2015 Paris Agreement and emphasise the critical importance of states, territories and local governments having direct and material input into the 2017 review of Australia's national climate policy;
- Engage with Planning and Building Ministers on opportunities to accelerate consistent, stronger, and cost effective standards and guidelines where appropriate for sustainability and efficiency in new and existing residential and commercial building performance;
- Promoting a national framework for meeting Australia's international climate change commitments at least cost, integrating climate policy with energy policy, including support for ongoing efforts to strengthen energy networks and markets;
- To work together on policies and programmes targeting low emission vehicles, renewable energy and energy storage technologies including opportunities for cost reduction through collaboration;
- Supporting innovation in low carbon technologies and materials such as timber, and develop supply chains and business models that accelerate penetration of carbon reducing practices.

We pledge to focus on these opportunities for enhanced collaboration, which will inform our next meeting to be held within six months time at the invitation of the Queensland Government.

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

Australian Capital Territory Minister for the Environment and Climate Change, Mr Simon Corbell, MLA;

Victorian Minister for Energy, Environment and Climate Change, The Hon Lily D'Ambrosio, MP;

Queensland Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection, The Hon Dr Steven Miles, MP;

South Australian Minister for Climate Change, The Hon Ian Hunter, MLC;

City of Hobart, Alderman Bill Harvey;

City of Darwin, Alderman Garry Lambert; and

Brisbane City Council, Chair of Environment, Parks and Sustainability Committee, Councillor David McLachlan.

