



Australian Government
Department of Industry, Science,
Energy and Resources

MC21-008000

Mr Richard Mathews
Diplomats for Climate Action Now
20 Sagers Close
GORDON ACT 2906

Dear Mr Matthews

Thank you for your correspondence of 31 October 2021 to the Hon Angus Taylor MP, Minister for Industry, Energy and Emissions Reduction, regarding climate change and foreign policies. The Minister has passed on your letter to the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources to reply. I am responding on the Minister's behalf.

Australia was pleased to participate fully in COP26 in Glasgow, where countries came together to express their strong ambition to confront the challenge of reducing emissions.

Australia is committed to the Paris Agreement and is taking practical action to reduce emissions by driving down the cost of technologies that will see Australia achieve net zero emissions by 2050.

The Australian Government released its Long Term Emissions Reduction Plan on 26 October 2021. This is a whole-of-economy plan to deliver net zero emissions by 2050, while preserving Australian jobs and generating new opportunities for industries and regions.

On 28 October 2021 the Government communicated its updated and enhanced Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The NDC affirms our net zero emissions by 2050 target, the seven low emissions technology stretch goals set out in our Long-Term Emissions Reduction Plan, and our commitment to our 2030 Paris target. Australia's 2030 Paris target is to reduce emissions by 26-28 per cent below 2005 levels. 2021 projections results show Australia is on track to exceed this target by up to 9 percentage points. Australia will submit its second NDC to the UNFCCC in 2025.

The Government's Technology Investment Roadmap and yearly Low Emissions Technology Statements are the cornerstones of Australia's Long Term Plan. The Government has committed to invest at least \$21 billion in low emissions technologies in the decade to 2030, driving more than \$80 billion in total public and private investment and supporting 160,000 jobs.

Removing the 'green premium' – the price difference between incumbent technologies and low or zero carbon solutions – will make net zero achievable for all countries, and enable substantial reductions in global emissions. Australia is driving international cooperation on low emissions technologies, which will be critical to delivering on the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Australia is collaborating to make low emissions technologies globally scalable and commercially viable, including through our work with the Leadership Group for Industry Transition, Clean Energy Ministerial and the International Solar Alliance.

We are focussing on reducing technology costs through our work with the international Mission Innovation forum, particularly in our position as co-lead of the Clean Hydrogen Mission and the Net Zero Industry Mission.

Australia is working closely with our regional partners to address the challenges of climate change. The Australian Government has committed an additional \$44 million for the Indo-Pacific Carbon Offsets Scheme, taking the total investment to \$104 million over 10 years. This scheme will help to boost public and private investment in climate action and help Australia and countries in the region meet their international climate change commitments.

Australia is also supporting nature-based solutions to protect natural ecosystems including through the International Partnership for Blue Carbon, the Asia-Pacific Rainforest Partnership and the Global Forest Observations Initiative.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to the Minister's attention.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'DH', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

David Higgins
General Manager
International Climate Branch
International Climate and Technology Division