

Australian National Statement

Second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum

Australia is very grateful for Thailand's hosting of the Second Asian and Pacific Energy Forum, and for Dr Shamshad Akhtar and the ESCAP Secretariat's continuing support to member states in enhancing energy security and sustainability.

Access to reliable and affordable energy is crucial to trade, economic growth and development. The Australian energy system and that of our entire region is undergoing profound change, driven by economic, engineering and environmental considerations.

Australia's 2017 **Foreign Policy White Paper** highlights our strong interest in an effective global transition to a low-emissions economy while supporting growth and affordable energy. As a major global exporter of energy commodities we look forward to working together to support energy availability throughout our region.

Our priorities include energy infrastructure, security, innovative technology and the relationship of energy to climate change.

We recently announced a **National Energy Guarantee**, under which retailers of electricity will need to meet a guarantee for reliability and emissions reductions in line with our commitments under the Paris Agreement.

Our commitment to reduce emissions by 26 to 28 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030 is among the highest per capita reduction targets for an advanced economy. Australia has also joined the global **Mission Innovation** initiative to double government investment in clean energy development by 2020.

Technology will underpin our low emissions transformation. Last year Australia developed a **Low Emissions Technology Roadmap** to highlight areas of potential growth in Australia's clean technology sector, map the development of new emissions reduction technologies and identify opportunities in global energy supply chains.

However, we recognise that we cannot overcome these energy challenges alone. Our region's energy policies all need to provide certainty for investment, consider broad approaches to emissions reductions and focus on productivity.

Australia is working regionally and globally to progress energy sustainability and environmental goals. Through the **APEC Energy Working Group**, members are aiming to reduce regional energy intensity by 45 percent by 2035, *[with 2005 as a base year]* and promoting a doubling of renewable energy in the region by 2030 *[from 2010 levels]*.

We regularly hold high-level **bilateral dialogues** focussing on energy and resources with other countries in our region including China, India, Japan and the Republic of Korea.

As part of our *Economic Infrastructure Development Strategy*, we are supporting our neighbours to have access to reliable and affordable energy, and to maximise benefits from their energy sectors.

Australia is proud to be supporting Tonga to reach its renewable energy goals and climate change targets through the **Outer Islands Renewable Energy Project**, contributing \$5.7 million towards the project.

Implementation of SDG7 and the 2030 Agenda is **not just a commitment by governments** – sustainable development must be inclusive and involve all relevant players, including civil society, business and academia.

Its implementation must harness all sources of development finance. This means using our existing resources and limited budgets to catalyse other financial flows and fill financing gaps in vulnerable countries, such as SIDS and LDCs.

Australia looks forward to presenting our first **Voluntary National Review** (VNR) on progress towards the 2030 Agenda. We will highlight our successes and challenges; and share our experience and lessons learnt in areas of global importance - in particular our contribution to development and economic growth in our region.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with Member States and ESCAP, to ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all in the Asia-Pacific.