



PRIME MINISTER

Reference: MC20-128020

Dr Ron Glanville

(address redacted)

Dear Dr Glanville and co-signatories

Thank you for your letter dated 22 August 2020 regarding climate change.

Australia is taking strong climate action as part of a coordinated global effort. We are committed to the Paris Agreement and have a strong record of meeting our emissions reduction targets. We have overachieved on our Kyoto-era targets, and are on track to overachieve on our 2030 target. We will do this by investing in technology, and without increasing taxes, putting upward pressure on electricity prices or compromising the jobs of rural and regional Australians.

Our Paris Target, reducing emissions by 26 to 28 per cent on 2005 levels by 2030, is a responsible one that makes a significant contribution to global climate action. It represents a halving of emissions per person in Australia, or a two-thirds reduction in emissions per unit of GDP.

The Australian Government has a suite of practical policies in place to meet our emissions reduction targets while maintaining a strong and prosperous economy.

At the centre of our policies is the \$3.5 billion Climate Solutions Package, including a new \$2 billion Climate Solutions Fund. This builds on our previous \$2.55 billion Emissions Reduction Fund and will help businesses, communities and landholders to reduce emissions. So far we have secured more than 190 million tonnes of emissions reductions, of which over 80 per cent will be delivered by the agricultural and land sectors.

Australia is also on track for around one third of our electricity needs to be met by renewables in the early 2020s. Right now, an unprecedented wave of clean energy investment is underway in Australia and new records have been set.

The Clean Energy Finance Corporation, the world's most successful green bank, has mobilised over \$20 billion in new investments in our economy. I am proud to say Australia has one of the highest rates of per capita investment in renewable energy technologies in the world. We also have the world's highest uptake of rooftop solar – one in five homes have solar on their roofs. To support the transition to renewable energy, the Government is investing in the energy storage and infrastructure of the future. This includes a \$1.38 billion equity investment in the Snowy 2.0 project, which will be the largest energy storage project in the Southern Hemisphere.

Australia is also making progress towards increasing our overall energy efficiency by 40 per cent by 2030. The Climate Solutions Package, announced in February 2019, provides measures to improve energy efficiency, such as over \$85 million to improve energy efficiency in homes and buildings and lower energy bills.

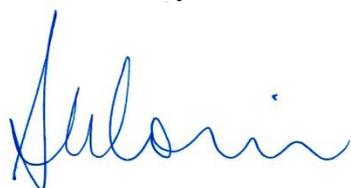
Our resources are supporting the transition to lower emissions around the world. We are among the world's largest exporters of Liquefied Natural Gas and hold among the largest reserves of lithium and cobalt for batteries. Natural gas is making it possible for nations to transition to a reliable and low emissions electricity supply.

In 2019 we released the National Hydrogen Strategy, through which Australian governments and industry are working together to build our hydrogen industry. The Australian Government has already committed over \$500 million towards a hydrogen future. Looking ahead, we are developing a National Electric Vehicle Strategy to ensure a planned and managed transition to new vehicle technology. The Government is also developing a long-term strategy to reduce emissions, like other parties to the Paris Agreement.

We are also considering our next steps in practical action to reduce emissions. Given the economic challenges before Australia and the world, we must be particularly mindful of the impact these decisions have on jobs and livelihoods. That is why in May 2020, the Government released the Technology Investment Roadmap for consultation, which sets out our strategic view to guide future investment in low emissions technologies. The Roadmap will help Australia develop new technologies to support jobs growth, back new industries to help our regional communities and economies to prosper, and maintain our strong track record of reducing emissions. Through our technology investments, Australia's action can contribute to our economy, rather than hurting it.

As you will appreciate, every day I receive numerous meeting requests from individuals and organisations across Australia. Unfortunately, it is impossible for me to accept all of the meeting requests I receive. I regret that I cannot accept your meeting request in this instance. Thank you for taking the time to write to me on this important issue. Australia is making a strong contribution to the global effort of tackling climate change while ensuring we have a robust and resilient economy.

Yours sincerely



SCOTT MORRISON