Joint Statement

on

the Establishment of the Australia – United States Net Zero Technology Acceleration Partnership

Australian Minister for Climate Change and Energy, the Hon Chris Bowen MP, and United States Secretary of Energy, Jennifer M. Granholm, having met on 12 July 2022, in Sydney, issued the following joint statement:

Australia and the United States share a commitment to the Paris Agreement and urgent climate action to achieve our ambitious 2030 targets and net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

Reducing emissions, while growing our economies and creating jobs, is one of the defining challenges of our time. It requires a global effort, with partners standing side-by-side to deliver solutions.

Our joint ambition is to accelerate development and deployment of zero-emissions technology solutions as soon as possible and reduce greenhouse gas emissions across our economies. Accelerating the development of new and emerging zero-emissions technologies will be crucial in unlocking globally scalable and commercially viable pathways to rapidly accelerate global emissions reductions and reach net-zero emissions.

Australia and the United States share common strengths in resources, energy, technology development, and industry. We have comparative advantages in renewable and clean energy and leading approaches to technology, innovation, and mobilization of the private sector. We also share a joint commitment to ensuring ongoing prosperity and security in the wider Indo-Pacific region.

Building on our common strengths and ambition, our countries intend to cooperate, subject to our respective national laws, regulations, and international commitments and obligations, to drive advances in, and deployment of, zero and negative emissions technologies and their enabling critical material inputs through the establishment of the Australia – United States Net Zero Technology Acceleration Partnership (the “Partnership”).

Our cooperation under the Partnership is intended to focus on practical collaboration, including support of applied research, development, pilot projects, and demonstration projects of mutual benefit. We intend to collaborate with industry and unlock co-investment from the private sector. We intend to build stronger innovation linkages between our research institutions, industry, and others, and support the exchange of information and views on zero-emissions technology solutions. Our collaboration is intended to drive investment, expand trade, and develop commercial opportunities between our countries.

The initial focus areas for cooperation under the Partnership are expected to include the development and deployment of the following technologies towards zero or negative emissions:

* Long duration energy storage technology;
* Digital electricity grids and technology to support integration of variable renewable energy;
* Hydrogen, including:
  + applications in mining and heavy vehicles;
  + supporting industry growth, including on Guarantee of Origin certification and deployment of hydrogen hubs; and

Carbon dioxide removal, including direct air capture.

Given the crucial role critical minerals and materials will play in the energy transition and in enabling the deployment of many of the above technologies, Australia and the United States also intend to collaborate on ensuring resilient, diversified, responsible, and sustainable critical material supply chains encompassing production, processing, and manufacturing capacity.

Australia and the United States may jointly decide to support further areas of cooperation on zero and negative emissions technologies beyond these initial focus areas.

Australia and the United States also intend to cooperate on other common aims and efforts to help advance net-zero emissions technology innovation globally, such as contributing towards a more focused and effective international clean energy architecture and pursuing progress in related multilateral fora, including the International Energy Agency, Mission Innovation, the Clean Energy Ministerial, the Breakthrough Agenda, and the Quad.

Australia and the United States intend to contribute funding and other support to tangible initiatives that support the objectives of this Partnership, subject to availability of appropriated funds and domestic processes.

This Partnership is led by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water of the Commonwealth of Australia and the Department of Energy of the United States of America. Other Australian or U.S. Government agencies may be engaged as appropriate to support successful implementation of this Partnership. Progress under the Partnership is expected to be reported annually among officials through the Australia-U.S. Energy Security Dialogue.

This Partnership is intended to advance long-standing cooperation between our two countries, which share many of the same challenges in decarbonising our economies and which can benefit from many of the same opportunities.

Signed in Sydney, in duplicate, this twelfth day of July, 2022.

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| ………………………………………………  **CHRIS BOWEN**  Minister for Climate Change and Energy | ………………………………………………  **JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM**  Secretary of Energy |