



Secretariat

CLIMATE GROUP

# Net Zero Futures.

## Policy Forum



# Context

Achieving net zero emissions is one of the key policy challenges of our times. It requires us to fundamentally change the way we live, work, produce, consume and move. Governments at all levels across the world are working with industry, businesses, and the community to bring about the changes we need to transition to a net zero emissions future.

Our view is that state, provincial, regional, and devolved governments have a critical role to play in this transition, 50-80% of adaptation and mitigation actions necessary to tackle climate change will be implemented at the subnational or local levels. As we accelerate the shift to renewable energy and look for strategies to achieve emissions reductions in the hardest to abate sectors, collaboration between subnational governments, in partnership with local and national governments, can create the momentum for positive change that is needed to deliver climate action now.

Over the next decade, our governments' efforts to mitigate climate change through

innovative technologies and the shift towards clean energy sources, such as green hydrogen and renewable electricity, will be crucial to meeting the challenges of the current climate emergency.

While the challenges facing subnational governments across the world are similar, we know many are at different stages in their response. Some governments already have innovative and ambitious policies and programs in place, while others are still searching for the solutions that best fit their circumstances. There is a tremendous opportunity before us to share in the knowledge and experiences to help secure a global transition to a net zero and resilient future in a way that is fair and just for all.

It is in this spirit that we have created the Net Zero Futures Policy Forum and invite you to join us. By promoting collaboration, knowledge sharing and capacity building, together we can create a vibrant international platform to help governments go further, faster, together towards net zero emissions.

# The ask

The Net Zero Futures Policy Forum (the Forum) is open to all states and regions including those who are not members of the Under2 Coalition. You may opt to use the Forum as a hook for engagement on specific policy topics or use it to approach any target states and regions you

wish to begin engagement with who can share relevant knowledge and expertise. Should any of your stakeholders wish to be involved, please let us know and we can take that forward with you.

# Key messages

**The Net Zero Futures Policy Forum (the Forum) is an international partnership of governments committed to addressing the practical challenges of achieving net zero emissions and accelerating this transition.**

It is an Under2 Coalition initiative with independent governance and funding, open to state, regional and other interested governments, including those who have not joined the Under2 Coalition.

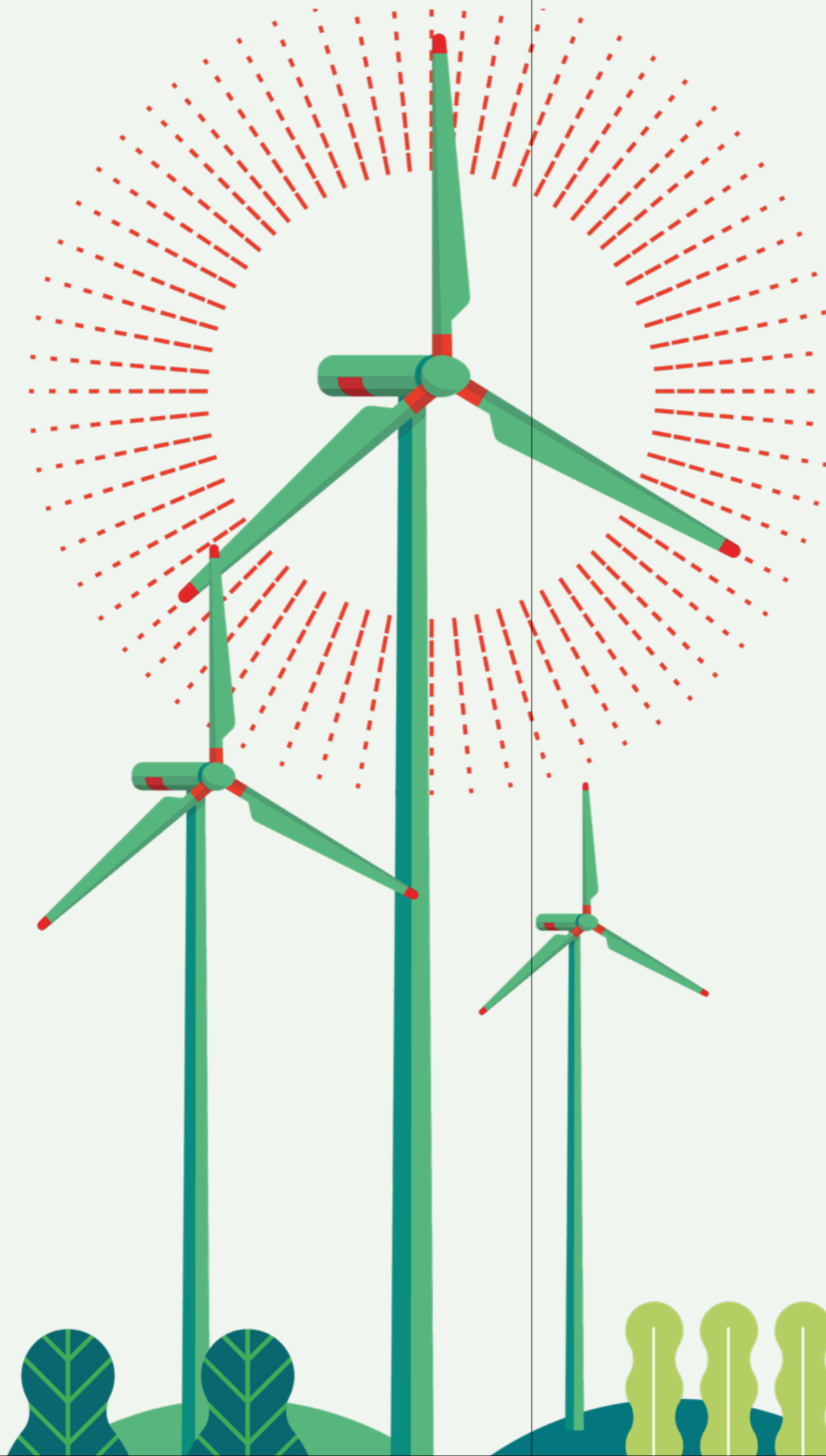
The Forum's focus is on practical collaboration and action to inform the development of best-practise policy solutions.

The founding members of the Forum include all Australian state and territory governments and the Scottish Government. The Forum is co-chaired by New South Wales (an Australian state) and Scotland.

The Forum is growing its membership base to ensure all members can benefit from the diverse perspectives and experiences of governments globally.

A Ministerial Leadership Group (MLG) sets the Forum's direction. The MLG consists of the political officeholders (e.g. First Ministers, Ministers) from participating jurisdictions responsible for leading on net zero emission policies.

The Forum's Ministerial Leadership Group has identified three initial priority policy areas for engagement: carbon sequestration, transport emissions and green hydrogen.



# Questions and Answers

## What is the Forum?

The Net Zero Futures Policy Forum (the Forum) is a voluntary international collaboration of state, regional, and other interested governments committed to reducing their greenhouse gas emissions and standing at the forefront of global decarbonisation efforts.

## Who is in it?

Current Forum members include all the Australian state and territory governments and the Scottish Government.

## What is the goal of the Forum?

The Forum aims to help state and regional jurisdictions develop their emission reduction policies by enabling access to the collective knowledge and experience of participating members.

## How will the Forum achieve its goal?

The Forum will:

1. Enable problem-solving through taskforces focused on addressing specific policy challenges.
2. Facilitate collaboration and policy development between governments through:
  - shared learnings and insights
  - providing a peer-to-peer service to connect officials with their counterparts who might have experience or mutual interest in a policy area.
3. Provide a library of best-practice policies and resources.



## How much does it cost to join?

### Year 1 (July 2022 to June 2023):

Founding members are covering the Forum's costs in its first year. New members are not required to make a financial contribution in this period.

### Year 2 (July 2023 to June 2024)

From July 2023, members will be expected to contribute funding based on their Gross Domestic Product or Gross State Product. Members will review the funding model and determine new funding contributions before the start of the Forum's third year (July 2024).

Funding can be provided directly for the enabling activities and/or through in-kind contributions.




## What services are paid for by the membership fee?

At present, resources contributed to the Forum are used for:

-  **Funding research** in targeted policy areas
-  **Developing procedural documents** and decision-making tools for the Forum, e.g. a policy prioritisation framework
-  **Investigating options to deliver a policy library** containing grey literature on policy areas of interest to Forum members
-  **International engagement** to connect with jurisdictions with similar interests
-  **Providing secretariat duties** to the Forum as a whole.

## What's on the agenda for the Forum?

At its first meeting in July 2022, the MLG decided the Forum will initially prioritise work on three policy areas:

-  **Transport emissions**
-  **Carbon sequestration**
-  **Green hydrogen.**

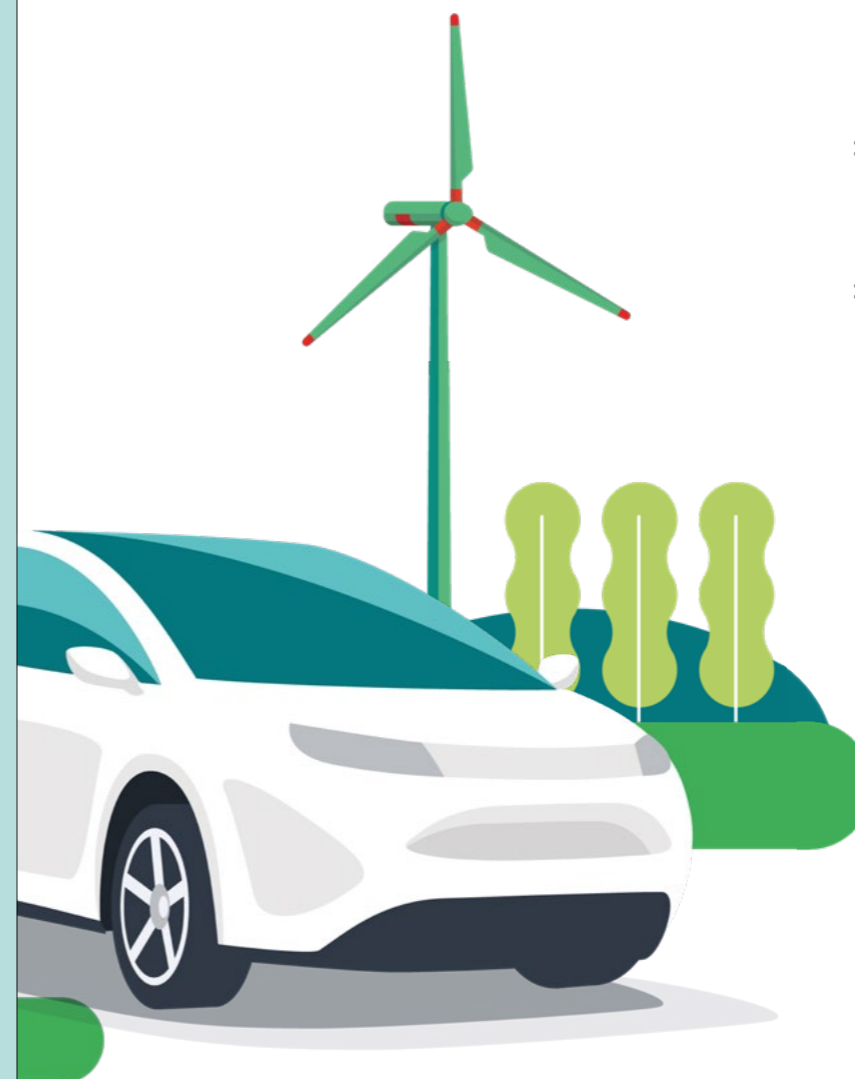
The Forum has established a taskforce for each priority policy area. Through these taskforces, Forum members are working together to identify and address specific policy challenges.

## How would I benefit from joining the Forum?

Joining the Forum provides governments with access to likeminded international peers, research and collaboration opportunities aimed at delivering policy that achieves deep decarbonisation. The membership of the Forum allows it to address issues which are uniquely encountered by state and regional level governments.

Participating governments:

- > will receive supported access to an international network of peers who can provide advice on an extensive range of net zero policy approaches in different settings
- > can request analyses and reports summarising the salient policy points from around the world on topics of interest
- > can request and participate in directed taskforces established to consider and jointly problem solve on topics of their choice
- > will operate in a strong authorising environment through the Ministerial Leadership Group
- > have access to a secretariat dedicated to serving the needs of Forum members.



## How often are Forum members expected to meet?

The Forum is a voluntary collaboration, where members are welcome to attend as many or as few meetings as they wish. Senior Official Group meetings happen approximately every 6 weeks, the Ministerial Leadership Group meets at least once a year, and taskforces meet as often as it is decided by their members.

## What is the Ministerial Leadership Group?

The Ministerial Leadership Group sets the Forum's direction. It consists of the political office-holders (First Minister, Ministers, etc.) from participating jurisdictions responsible for leading on climate and net zero emissions policies. The Ministerial Leadership Group is co-chaired by NSW and Scotland for the first two years.

## What is the Senior Officials Group?

A senior officials' working group, comprising advisors or public servants from jurisdictions, meets to resolve issues in advance of the Ministerial Leadership Group meetings. Senior officials from the Forum's co-chairing governments will drive the workplan for that year and work closely with the secretariat.

## What is a taskforce?

Taskforces will involve members working together to address specific policy challenges. The Ministerial Leadership Group will decide when a taskforce is required to resolve a policy issue. Each taskforce will decide its own mandate and agree plans of work for its duration.

## What is the focus of the Transport Taskforce?

Road transport accounts for approximately 15% of total CO2 emissions and is the fastest growing contributor to climate change. With global emissions still rising, governments must embrace the zero emissions transport technologies which have been developed and re-think the way in which our infrastructure, energy systems, and even our homes should operate to support these technologies into the future.

Over the next 12 months, the Forum's Transport Taskforce will tackle these challenges by investigating the policies, initiatives and actions required to reduce transport emissions and support a sustainable, equitable and global transition to Zero Emission Vehicles (ZEVs).



## What is the focus of the Carbon Sequestration Taskforce?

Many governments across the globe have sought to maximise the climate change mitigation potential of carbon sequestration technologies. The Carbon Sequestration Taskforce will advance these efforts by examining the practical challenges of developing and implementing policies to support increased biological carbon sequestration.

## What is the focus of the Green Hydrogen Taskforce?

Green Hydrogen has the potential to mitigate emissions from a number of hard-to-abate sectors, such as heavy vehicles, gas and industrial processes. As the global community looks to accelerate the shift towards clean energy sources, green hydrogen has the potential to become a critical part of a sustainable and secure energy future. To help realise this opportunity, the Green Hydrogen Taskforce will examine the mechanisms by which sub-national governments can develop green hydrogen markets and scale-up production to deliver the social, economic, and environmental benefits of this technology.

## How to become involved?

If you would like to learn more about the Forum or become a member, please contact the secretariat at [NZFPolicyForum@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:NZFPolicyForum@environment.nsw.gov.au).



