

Net Zero Futures Policy Forum

Ministerial Leadership Group meeting communique

Wednesday 6 July 2022

Members of the Net Zero Futures Policy Forum (the Forum) met for the first time on Wednesday 6 July 2022, agreeing to address the practical policy challenges faced by governments in achieving net zero emissions. In the next six months, the Forum will focus on **carbon sequestration, transport emissions** and **green hydrogen** due to the potential for state, regional and devolved governments to deliver significant emissions reductions by developing effective policies in these areas.

The inaugural meeting marked the beginning of the Forum's official work program. The meeting's Chair, New South Wales Treasurer and Minister for Energy, the Hon. Matt Kean MP, said "Governments have different areas of policy expertise. We want to bring them together to share technologies and ideas to reduce emissions, create jobs and build the net zero emissions economies of the future."

State, regional, and devolved governments are often closest to the consequences of climate change. They are frequently the governments that must respond to floods, fires, heatwaves and other climate-related events. The United Nations Development Programme has estimated that 50-80% of the adaptation and mitigation actions necessary to tackle climate change will be implemented at subnational or local levels.

What is the Forum?

The Forum is a voluntary international collaboration open to state, regional and other interested governments at the forefront of global decarbonisation efforts. Scotland and the eight Australian States and Territories are its founding members.

The Forum is an Under2 Coalition initiative with its own governance and funding. The Ministerial Leadership Group sets the Forum's strategic direction and work program. NSW and Scotland are the initial co-chairs of the Ministerial Leadership Group.

Scotland's Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport, Mr. Michael Matheson MSP, said "Global challenges such as climate change require a global response. Scotland is committed to supporting international efforts to deliver a transition to net zero in a way that is fair and just. The Net Zero Futures Policy Forum will support governments to work together to address the practical challenges of achieving net zero emissions in a just and fair way."

The role of the Forum

Today, members affirmed the Forum's:

- **Purpose** - to complement national efforts to reduce emissions by accelerating state and regional governments' progress towards meeting emissions reduction goals, using their unique policy levers.
- **Vision** - to help governments address the practical challenges of achieving net zero emissions by enabling access to the collective experience of participants in developing emissions reduction policies at the state and regional level.

- **Focus** – on policy issues that are primarily within the jurisdiction of state, regional and devolved governments. The Forum will foster collaboration and engagement that is separate but complementary to the important work led by national governments.
- **Initial work program** - nominating three priority policy areas for the first six months:
 1. **carbon sequestration**
 2. **transport emissions**
 3. **green hydrogen.**

Members consider these policy areas to be high priority due to their potential for significant emissions reductions. They are pressing concerns for many governments, including Forum members, and can be influenced by state and regional government decisions.

International engagement

The Forum will send representatives to Climate Week NYC (September 2022) and COP27 (November 2022) to deepen its engagement with state and regional governments globally.

Other interested governments will be encouraged to join the Forum by signing its joining agreement at COP27.

The next meeting of the Forum’s Ministerial Leadership Group will be a hybrid virtual and in-person meeting held at or before COP27.



Founding members of the Net Zero Futures Policy Forum

Scotland (co-chair)	Mr Michael Matheson MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Net Zero, Energy and Transport
New South Wales (co-chair)	The Hon. Matt Kean MP, Treasurer, Minister for Energy
Australian Capital Territory	The Hon. Andrew Barr MLA, Chief Minister; Minister for Climate Action
Northern Territory	The Hon. Lauren Moss, Minister for Environment, Climate Change and Water Security; Minister for Equality and Inclusion; Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention; Minister for Seniors; Minister for Youth
Queensland	The Hon. Meaghan Scanlon, Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef; Minister for Science and Youth Affairs
South Australia	The Hon. Susan Close MP, Deputy Premier; Minister for Climate, Environment and Water; Minister for Defence and Space Industries; Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science
Tasmania	The Hon. Roger Jaensch MP, Minister for Environment and Climate Change, Minister for Education, Children and Youth, Minister for Skills, Training and Workforce Growth, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs
Victoria	The Hon. Lily D’Ambrosio MP, Minister for Energy, Minister for Environment and Climate Action; Minister for Solar Homes
Western Australia	The Hon. Reece Whitby MLA, Minister for Environment; Minister for Climate Action The Hon. Bill Johnston MLA, Minister for Energy; Minister for Mines and Petroleum; Minister for Corrective Service; Minister for Industrial Relations
