



## AUSTRALIA

### **Submission to the Ad-Hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP) on the 2015 Agreement | May 2014**

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Australia welcomes the opportunity to present its views on the 2015 agreement:

- The Australian Government accepts the science of climate change and supports national and global efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Australia is committed to taking action to reduce emissions while growing a healthy national and global economy, through practical actions that will achieve real, measurable results.
- The Government is firmly committed to reducing Australia's emissions to meet its target of five per cent below 2000 levels by 2020. The Government is implementing a direct action plan, including an Emissions Reduction Fund, that will provide positive incentives for businesses and the community to improve practices, invest in new technologies and reduce emissions. The Government will review its position, considering further action and targets in 2015 as part of negotiations on the new global climate change agreement. The review will consider the extent to which other nations, including the major economies and Australia's major trading partners, are taking real and comparable actions to reduce emissions.
- Climate change can only be effectively mitigated if all countries, and in particular major economies, take coordinated action to restrain emissions. The most important function of a 2015 agreement will be to establish a common playing field for all countries to take serious, coordinated action to reduce emissions. This action should be appropriate to their national circumstances and consistent with economic growth. Commitments by all countries to reduce or limit their emissions are needed to make a genuine impact globally, and avoid carbon leakage across boundaries.
- A 2015 agreement must respect countries' national prerogative to choose their domestic climate policies. It should foster policy settings under which businesses and private actors can make investment and innovation decisions for the future and help support economic growth.
- Nationally determined contributions will allow countries to take action in a way that is fitted to their national circumstances, capacities and domestic policies. This will let countries set out their efforts under the Convention in a way that recognises all countries' unique conditions. Using categories of countries fixed in 1992 as a basis for action from 2020 to 2030 and beyond is neither a politically or economically viable basis on which to continue structuring countries' commitments.
- Countries should have national ownership of their contributions. To help others understand the effort each country will undertake, countries should express a minimum commitment that is not

conditional on support. They may wish to make additional commitments that are conditional in which case the conditional elements should be clearly identified and the conditions explained.

- To help countries' national preparations, countries must agree the up-front information that will accompany intended nationally determined contributions, to promote clarity, transparency and understanding. The key purpose of this information is to:
  - *Clearly define the contribution:* Countries should clearly set out basic details of the proposed contribution including the type, headline number, start and end date, whether single or multi-year, the reference point, coverage of sectors and gases, description of underlying assumptions and methodologies, description of policies and measures.
  - *Allow others to understand the impact of the contribution on the atmosphere:* The contribution should be expressed in quantified or quantifiable terms.
  - *Clarify accounting assumptions:* Countries should set out any assumptions related to accounting for the contribution, including use of metrics and methodologies, accounting treatment of the land sector, and whether international market mechanisms will be used.
- Nationally determined contributions should be supported by a rule-based architecture that promotes transparency, consistency and environmental integrity. This should comprise:
  - *Basic common parameters that help promote consistent tracking of efforts:* a common end date (such as 2030); use of metrics and methodologies from latest IPCC guidance;
  - *A common measurement, reporting and verification framework,* founded on regular preparation of national inventories, streamlined reporting and international review;
  - *Rules for land sector accounting* that treat the land sector comparably to other sectors in making a contribution towards countries' commitments; incentivise real abatement; recognise emissions and removals; and exclude non-anthropogenic emissions;
  - *Rules for international market mechanisms* that ensure environmental integrity and prevent double counting, if countries choose to use such mechanisms.
- In line with the above, Australia sees the key elements of the 2015 agreement as:
  - *A framework to define and record post-2020 commitments:* the core of this would be commitments by all countries to make nationally determined contributions to reducing global emissions from 2020;
  - *A rule-based transparency and accountability framework;*
  - *Links to existing international institutional infrastructure* that will operate together with the 2015 agreement, and avoid unnecessary duplication of work or institutions;
  - *Provisions for the agreement instrument to be durable* and not require regular renegotiation.