



THE HON BEN MORTON MP
MINISTER ASSISTING THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET
MINISTER FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICE
SPECIAL MINISTER OF STATE

Reference: MC21-121209

Mr Peter Carroll FMS and Ms Anne Walker
President and National Executive Director
Catholic Religious Australia
PO Box 1518
NORTH SYDNEY NSW 2059

Dear Mr Carroll and Ms Walker

Thank you for your letter dated 12 October 2021 to the Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, regarding the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26). The Prime Minister has asked me to respond on his behalf. I sincerely apologise for the delay in responding to you.

The Prime Minister was pleased to travel to Glasgow to support the UK in delivering an ambitious COP26. Australia clearly outlined our commitments to address the threat of climate change and we will meet and beat those commitments.

We have set a target to reach net zero emissions by 2050, and have a clear plan for achieving it. We have met and exceeded our Kyoto commitments by 459 million tonnes, and our emissions are already down more than 20 per cent from 2005 levels. We expect Australian emissions to fall up to 35 per cent by 2030, far exceeding our Paris target of 26 to 28 per cent.

Our technology-driven Long-Term Emissions Reduction Plan sets out a credible pathway to net zero emissions by 2050 while preserving existing industries, establishing Australia as a leader in low emissions technologies, and positioning our regions to prosper. Through our Technology Investment Roadmap, we have set cost targets for priority technologies like clean hydrogen, ultra low-cost solar, low carbon steel and aluminium, energy storage, carbon capture and storage and soil carbon. We are investing more than \$21 billion to continue to drive down the costs of these technologies, and expect this to secure more than \$84 billion in total investment from the private sector and governments in the decade ahead.

As part of this investment, the Government will establish a \$1 billion Low Emissions Technology Commercialisation Fund within the Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC), injecting \$500 million in new capital to support Australian low emissions technology innovators, with the balance sourced from private sector investors. This leverages the CEFC's success as the world's largest government-owned green bank, having already mobilised \$33 billion in new investments across the economy.

We are also continuing to build on the Government's \$1.6 billion emission reduction package, announced in the 2021-22 Budget, which will transform Australia's transport industries, mining and resource sectors, manufacturing, and fuel and energy production, for example, we have committed \$464 million to accelerate the development of clean hydrogen industrial hubs in regional Australia. This package complements our existing policies, including a \$1.9 billion investment in low emissions technologies announced in the 2020-21 Budget, our Climate Solutions Package and the Emissions Reduction Fund. So far under the Emissions Reduction Fund we have secured over 200 million tonnes of emissions reductions.

We know climate change is a global effort. That's why we're investing \$565.8 million to foster international collaboration and achieve technology breakthroughs, lowering energy costs and creating more than 2,500 jobs. We've already announced international partnerships to accelerate the development of new industries like hydrogen with the United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, Korea, Indonesia, Vietnam and Singapore, and we are close to concluding one with India. And we're doubling our international climate finance commitment, to support our Pacific family and South East Asian partners, to \$2 billion over five years.

Australia is making a strong contribution to the global effort of tackling climate change while ensuring we continue to build a strong job-creating economy.

Thank you again for writing to the Prime Minister.

Yours sincerely



BEN MORTON

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