



MEDIA RELEASE

AUSTRALIAN INDUSTRY GREENHOUSE NETWORK

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Incentivising technology uptake to accelerate emissions reduction

AIGN welcomes the opportunity for consultation on the Discussion Paper: King Review Safeguard Crediting Mechanism.

A well-designed low-emissions technology deployment incentive scheme can provide an important step in realising the goal of reducing the emissions intensity of Australia's largest facilities by undertaking transformative abatement projects.

AIGN's Chief Executive Officer, Susie Smith, said this investment can provide a catalyst to unlock millions of dollars in private capital in emissions reduction technologies.

"Australia has an opportunity to be a technology leader in the development and adoption of low, zero, and negative emission projects," Ms Smith said.

Climate change policy that promotes economic growth and is underpinned by the principles of sustainable development is more important than ever as we recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and continue to evolve our policy approach in line with global Paris Agreement commitments.

The Government's initial commitment of \$279 million in the 2021-22 Budget to incentivise technology uptake and emissions reduction recognises the vital role technology will play in Australia's emissions transformation, as the economy transitions to net zero emissions. This transformation will require sustained ongoing commitment across the economy.

Ms Smith said, *"It is of vital importance for long-term investment in the transition to a net zero economy that we not only look to new emerging technologies, but also apply new technologies enabling the transformation of existing industries"*.

There are many complexities to work through in the detailed design of the proposed program and industry looks forward to providing constructive feedback. Central to this is ensuring that the abatement is genuine through crediting reductions in emissions intensity for cleaner production, not for simply reducing output. We should not be exporting Australian industry, Australian jobs, and Australian emissions offshore. Recognising that the resources, energy, and manufacturing industries play an important role in Australia's economic prosperity, delivering over a million jobs across the country.

Australia's long-term strategy should continue to focus on driving down the cost of commercialising emerging technologies, technology transfer, and investment in enabling and supporting these technologies and infrastructure.

It is well understood that the cost of mitigation will be materially lower if opportunities for innovation in low-emissions technologies are fully utilised.

AIGN is a network of industry associations and individual businesses which contribute to climate change policy dialogue and see value in joint industry action on climate change to promote sustainable development.

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