

I love a Sunburnt Country
A land of sweeping plains
Of ragged mountain ranges
Of droughts and flooding rains

Australia – summed up perfectly by Dorothea Mackellar in her most famous poem – My Country, first published in 1908.

As a country, Australia is all too aware of the vagaries of weather, along with the potential impact of climate change.

We have been an active participant in international climate change negotiations since the 1980s – and Australia has committed to international agreements on climate change since 1992.

We were a party to the Kyoto protocol – and are a party to its successor, the Paris Agreement.

Australia is resolutely committed to that agreement.

Australia has set a target to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 – we are on track to reduce emissions by up to 35 per cent by 2030 – well in excess of our target of 26-28 per cent.

But it is not only us we are focussed on.

We are also committed to our regional partners – increasing our climate finance commitments, assisting our neighbours to transition to low emission, climate resilient economies – all whilst working alongside them to adapt to the adverse impacts of climate change.

We do however support market led investments – for the private sector to help drive climate solutions, transition energy systems, all whilst ensuring food security and industry sustainability.

Australia is committed to ensuring that emission reductions are driven by technology.

Through our Nationally Determined Contribution, Australia has inscribed seven technology stretch goals to bring the price of key low emissions technologies to cost parity with current higher emission energy sources and technology.

This includes reducing the cost of clean hydrogen

Solar

Energy storage and battery technology

Green steel and aluminium

Along with soil carbon measures.

Australia is focussed on driving down costs, whilst still providing reliable base load power, knowing that this is a key and practical path to accelerating their uptake – not only at home, but globally.

We are working collaboratively with other countries – investing to proactively accelerate solutions and ultimately their uptake.

And finally – Australia welcomes the positive outcomes at COP26, the finalisation of the Paris rulebook – including transparency and carbon markets rules.

Thank you