





ELIMATE ACTION Pl

There's more to Australian Mining

Supporting ongoing climate action by Australia's minerals industry

The MCA and all of its members are taking serious action on climate change and are committed to the Paris Agreement and its goal of net zero emissions.

Sustained climate action across all nations is required to reduce the risks of human-induced climate change and to support world-wide decarbonisation as we transform to a lower emissions future.

Our sector improves the lives of millions of people in Australia and overseas through the responsible mining of minerals that are essential for everyday life.

This is a global undertaking of major technological, economic and social challenge in which Australia and the minerals sector must play their part.

To achieve an ambition of net zero emissions in Australia, and reflecting the importance of rapid action, requires a stable national policy framework that includes:

- 1. Substantially increased research, development and investment in technologies and processes to reduce mine site emissions
- 2. Widespread deployment of low and zero emission technologies including consideration of all technologies
- 3. Credible, verified low cost abatement options, including domestic and international offsets

- 4. Accelerated development of the minerals required for a low emissions future including aluminium, copper, nickel, zinc, iron, uranium, base metals, lithium, minerals sands, and rare earths
- 5. Global and domestic partnerships with governments, regulators, customers, technology developers, universities, NGOs and other relevant groups to drive new technologies that cost-effectively reduce emissions
- 6. Policies that foster continued economic growth and investor confidence in Australia.

The scale of the technology-led transformation required cannot occur without the minerals and raw materials provided by the Australian mining sector.

Our sector is already making major investments to significantly reduce emissions such as renewable energy investments at mine sites and collaborations with partners on low emissions technologies and processes.

Australia's ability to successfully adapt to climate change will rely on a strong economy including a strong and internationally competitive Australian mining industry. Our sector will continue to deliver the raw materials and contribute to the new technologies which will underpin necessary resilient infrastructure and act on new opportunities that will drive lower emissions for the minerals industry.

This 2020-2023 plan furthers the minerals sector's public commitment to addressing climate change on an ongoing basis consistent with the MCA's climate statement. It outlines a series of actions focused on three key themes:

- 1. Support developing technology pathways to achieve significant reductions in Australia's greenhouse emissions
- 2. Increased transparency on climate change related reporting and informed advocacy
- 3. Knowledge sharing of the sector's responses to addressing climate change.

This plan will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains consistent with Australia's climate policy ambitions in support of the Paris Agreement.

With this plan, the sector acknowledges the critical importance of technology in reducing emissions. It lays the groundwork for the Australian minerals sector to share its knowledge and support emission reductions within the sector.

The minerals industry has already taken a strong proactive approach on research, development and deployment of technology applications across our businesses. Major opportunities exist in pursuing decarbonisation including through operational efficiencies, abatement, developing and deploying low emissions technologies including renewables, hydrogen, proven, safe and reliable Carbon Capture Utilisation and Storage (CCUS) and advanced nuclear solutions, as well as digitisation, automation, and electrification.

The sector will support the development of cleaner energy options through the development of critical minerals to enable their application as



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MAKING THE SWITCH

Australian miners embrace renewable energy

Remote mine sites are increasingly powered by solar, wind and battery energy. In February 2020, Rio Tinto announced a 34MW solar farm will power its new Koodaideri iron ore mine in the Pilbara. The 100,000-panel photovoltaic plant, along with a lithium-ion battery at Tom Price, will help Rio Tinto reduce its annual carbon emissions by about 90,000 tonnes - the equivalent of taking around 28,000 cars off the road. Expected to be operational in 2021, the solar farm will join more than a dozen green energy projects at mining operations across the country.

There's more to Australian Mining

The MCA is proud to release its Climate Action Plan while recognising the shadow cast by COVID-19. This has not and will of this Plan. The minerals sector stands ready to help lead our nation's economic recovery post-COVID-19.

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The technologyled transformation required cannot occur without the minerals and raw materials provided by the Australian minerals sector.

well as taking a lead on commodity stewardship looking at global procurement practices, circular economy, and traceability of commodities through their lifecycle.

Practical and cost-effective options are already being developed and put into action across the minerals value chain.

The sector will play its part so that Australia's minerals can be sustainably mined, refined and consumed to support more sustainable economic growth and social progress in alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the global climate goals of the Paris Agreement.

This Climate Action Plan is part of the ongoing commitment of Australian minerals companies to environmentally sustainable and responsible mining and processing.

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Tania Constable Chief Executive Officer Minerals Council of Australia

not deter Australia's minerals sector from further implementation

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CLIMATE THEMES AND ACTIONS

Developing technology pathways to achieve significant reductions in Australia's greenhouse gas emissions

Encouraging substantial investment across a broad range of low-emissions technologies.



ACTION 1

Enhance national and global discussions on low emissions technologies and report on the potential of innovative mitigation and adaptation technologies.

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Supporting the

shift towards a

mining sector

in Australia

lower emissions



Define a greater role for the minerals sector in the global and national transformation to lower emissions.

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Support the development of policies and technologies to achieve least-cost abatement in order to help meet the net zero emissions goal of the Paris Agreement and maintain the competitiveness of energy-intensive and tradeexposed sectors.

Increased transparency on climate change reporting and informed advocacy

Providing timely, accurate and reliable information to enhance members' capacity to act.





ACTION 4

Understand the opportunities and risks of net zero emissions for the Australian minerals sector having regard to the Australian Government's commitments under the Paris Agreement and the aspirations set by the states and territories.

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ACTION 5 Build the capacity of Australia's minerals sector relating to climate-related

financial disclosures (including from the Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosure).

CLIMATE ACTIVITIES

ACTIVITY 1.1

Pursue climate partnerships Identify domestic and international partnerships relevant to the minerals sector to advance the climate goals of the Paris Agreement.

ACTIVITY 1.2

Climate Change Advisory Panel Establish and convene an independent panel of experts to advise the MCA on sustainable pathways to decarbonisation.

ACTIVITY 1.3

Demonstrate technologies Support the demonstration of technologies that can help reduce fugitive emissions by collaborating with relevant organisations.

ACTIVITY 1.4

Explore technology potential Consider aspirational uptake rates and timeframes across a broad portfolio of lowemitting and high-abating technologies.

ACTIVITY 1.5

National technology roadmap Inform and help implement the Government's Technology Investment Roadmap.

ACTIVITY 1.6

Develop minerals sector roadmap Partner with relevant organisations to develop a minerals-specific technology roadmap.

ACTIVITY 1.7

Explore low carbon opportunities Release a statement on the opportunities associated with transforming the minerals sector in support of a decarbonised future.

ACTIVITY 1.8

Work with finance community Identify innovative business models that can support the uptake of nascent low-emissions technologies.

ACTIVITY 2.1

Support renewable energy Encourage the uptake of renewable energy sources at the mine site.

ACTIVITY 2.2

Support zero emissions Support innovative solutions for zero emissions energy production at mine sites.

ACTIVITY 2.3

Support electric vehicles Support the uptake of electric vehicles at the mine site and promote the associated opportunities for the sector.

ACTIVITY 3.1

ACTIVITY 3.2

ACTIVITY 3.3

Advocate climate programs Advocate for programmatic support to enable deployment of mining technologies to assist in the sector's decarbonisation.

ACTION 2



Support public data repository

Work with government officials to improve mineral sector datasets, including remote power options, centralised power system costs and low emissions technologies.

Advocate long-term policy

Longer-term policy advocacy consistent with the MCA's Climate Statement to enable the sector to decarbonise.





Report on technology uptake

Release a biennial statement on progress towards achieving aspirational technology uptake rates suggested in Action 1.4.

ACTIVITY 3.5

Publicly support ARENA

Support ARENA to continue accelerating the uptake of clean energy.

ACTIVITY 3.6

Access international abatement Advocate for private sector access to international low-cost abatement for voluntary and compliance purposes.

ACTIVITY 3.7

Review innovation systems

Periodically review the health of the national innovation system in regard to research, development and demonstration (RD&D) relevant to the minerals sector.

Knowledge sharing of the sector's responses to addressing climate change

Improving members' understanding of global climate change initiatives and partnerships.



ACTION 8

Showcase commitments and practices in mining operations.



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ACTION 9

Lead discussions on the opportunities of commodity stewardship.



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Positively engage in relevant climate agendas and public consultation **processes** including **UNFCCC**, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), as well as collaboration with relevant organisations.

Implementation of the Climate Action Plan

The MCA Board, assisted by its advisory committee, the Energy and Climate Change Committee, will oversee the implementation of the action plan.

of the Paris Agreement. Environmental, social and governance (ESG) related topics will also be included in discussions such as waste and water management, deployment of innovative solutions, and opportunities for national and

MAKING THE SWITCH

The future of mining includes electric vehicles

Mining companies are increasingly making the switch to electric vehicles - from light passenger utilities to employee buses and even large haul trucks. Anglo American, in its effort to drive operations towards carbon neutrality, is developing a hybrid haul truck that uses both a lithium-ion battery and a hydrogen fuel cell module. It will be the world's largest hydrogen powered truck if testing later this year is successful. In Australia, electric vehicles are also appearing on mine sites. BHP is expanding its pilot program for electrified Land Cruisers to its Western Australian iron ore and nickel businesses after successful testing at Olympic Dam in South Australia.

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MAKING THE SWITCH

Glencore looks to future with carbon capture in Surat Basin Glencore is leading the research and development of low emission technology solutions with its Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) demonstration project in the Surat Basin (Qld). CCS technology captures CO₂ from coal and gas-fired power stations and other industrial processes and stores it deep beneath the ground. The Surat Basin features suitable geological conditions to sequestrate large quantities of CO₂. The demonstration project will establish the technical viability and safe operation of the technology on behalf of industry and government.

ACTIVITY 4.1

Economics of net zero emissions Model the opportunities and costs of net zero emissions to the minerals sector consistent with national commitments under the Paris Agreement and the aspirations set by the states and territories.

ACTIVITY 5.1

Host climate disclosure forum Host bi-annually a climate-related

financial disclosure forum to raise awareness and share knowledge.

ACTIVITY 5.2

Align disclosure practices Identify current disclosure practices amongst members to inform their alignment with TCFD recommendations.

ACTIVITY 6.1

Assist climate planning

Explore reputable publicly released climate scenarios and their significance for the minerals sector, and survey members to compare commitments and use of scenarios and report on key findings.

ACTIVITY 7.1

Climate policy barometer

Survey members to identify and understand the nature of climate-related policy issues and opportunities, and report on key findings to transparently set expectations on MCA advocacy priorities.

ACTIVITY 8.1

Establish online registry Establish an online registry including minerals sector climate-related collateral (initially targeting members but could allow future public access).

ACTIVITY 8.2

Supporting adaptation

Understand the types of adaptation investments needed in the minerals sector. especially in regard to operations, employee health, supply chains, water use, energy resources and local communities, to help minimise the adverse impacts of a changing climate

ACTIVITY 8.3 Supporting resilience

Understand and share how mining operations are assessing and managing the physical impacts of climate change on site to build

ACTIVITY 9.1

operational resilience.

Report on circular economy

Report on the role of the minerals sector in helping transform to a circular economy.



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The MCA will promote evidence-based knowledge-sharing to help members manage emissions. This will include sharing ways to identify and estimate future emissions pathways consistent with Australian Government policies and the climate goals

international cooperation to enhance sectoral understanding and build capacity to act.

The MCA will also encourage peer learning by providing members with opportunities to attend relevant meetings, including international climate negotiations, along with hosting relevant workshops and enabling contributions by the industry to scientific and technological work in Australia and overseas.

ACTIVITY 9.2

Report on blockchain technology

Report on the application of blockchain technology in the minerals sector.

ACTIVITY 9.3

Support value-adding activities

Partner with organisations to showcase the importance of minerals extraction to their value-adding activities, including climatesmart minerals and metals.

ACTIVITY 10.1

International climate agenda

Engage productively in the business of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change including the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the work of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.



