

Asia-Pacific Climate Leaders' Declaration

4 June 2019 | Brisbane, Queensland, Australia

We, the state, city, regional and national leaders from the Asia-Pacific commit to accelerate our response to tackling climate change in our own jurisdictions.

Continuing to emit greenhouse gases at current levels will impact the climate, global biodiversity and the quality of life for future generations. The *Paris Agreement* charts a clear path forward to address global climate change with the goal of limiting the increase in global average temperature to well below 2°C above preindustrial levels, and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5°C.

The transition to net zero emissions will provide opportunities for new investment and jobs, but also challenges for regions and communities currently reliant on emissions-intensive industries. We recognise the importance of ensuring this transition is fair and just.

This is an immense task which requires promoting all the opportunities towards a low emissions economy so that our future generations can prosper. We know that addressing climate change is a shared responsibility between governments, businesses and the communities and that governments have an important and influential leadership role to play in both adapting to the impacts of climate change and transitioning to a low-carbon, clean growth economy.

The commitment

We, the undersigned leaders and representatives of states, cities, regions and national governments, will:

1. a. *(For state, regional and city governments)* Play our role in reducing emissions and work with national governments to meet Paris Agreement goals and to encourage and support a step up in national ambition.
b. *(For national governments)* Strengthen our national climate ambition in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement and work with states, cities, regions and businesses to deliver on the ambition;
2. Develop and implement strong adaptation action plans to combat the impacts of climate change such as increased extreme weather events, heatwaves, sea level rise, flooding and the spread of disease;
3. Develop cross-jurisdictional action in the Asia-Pacific to protect marine environments and share information, knowledge, expertise and good practice;
4. Recognise the importance of sustainable management of forests and wetlands, including rainforests and mangroves, and the enhancement of forest carbon stocks through REDD+ and coordinate efforts, where possible to develop verifiable land sector emissions reduction and sequestration projects;
5. Promote awareness and work towards the preservation of tangible and intangible cultural heritage from the impacts of climate change.
6. Support the sharing of climate mitigation and adaptation technology and knowledge within the Asia-Pacific region.
7. Foster an ongoing Asia-Pacific dialogue on climate action both across the region and within the global community by strengthening cooperation between governments and by developing a strong Asia-Pacific regional network. This may include the following:
 - a. Sharing of knowledge, information, and experiences about policies and programs that have effectively reduced greenhouse gas emissions and enhanced resilience to climate change;
 - b. Promoting collaboration on scientific and technological research;

- c. Advocating for issues specific to the Asia-Pacific region to accelerate action on climate change including access to climate finance.

We will work with partners such as The Climate Group and other international organisations to deliver these commitments.

We invite other state, regional, city and national governments in the Asia-Pacific region to join us in this commitment and to strengthen their climate change targets and actions ahead of the United Nations Climate Summit in September and COP25 in December 2019.

A global economic transition to net zero emissions is essential, achievable and already underway in many parts of the world. By joining forces, we will help deliver a future that is more sustainable, resilient and prosperous for all.

This Declaration of the Asia-Pacific Climate Leadership Forum is endorsed by the following governments:

- Chhattisgarh, India
- City of Melbourne, Australia
- City of Sydney, Australia
- North Kalimantan, Indonesia
- Queensland, Australia
- Independent State of Samoa
- South Australia, Australia
- West Kalimantan, Indonesia
- West Papua, Indonesia