



21 February 2020

2050 net-zero emissions goal and strategy would help unlock investment in clean technology

In response to [the Federal Opposition's recommitment to a net-zero emissions target for 2050](#), Emma Herd, Chief Executive Officer of the Investor Group on Climate Change said:

"We are seeing an increasing consensus among investors and the business community that a 2050 net-zero emissions target constitutes the responsible economic management needed to address systemic climate change risk.

"Only today we have seen the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority flagging that [it will stress test major financial institutions](#) on climate risk. Other important financial regulators like the Reserve Bank and ASIC have also recognised that climate change presents a material risk to our economic prosperity.

"Meeting the goals of the Paris Agreement will significantly de-risk the Australian economy by guarding against the ratcheting physical and financial impacts of climate change such as worsening extreme weather, rising insurance premiums and the prospect of stranded assets.

"A [recent report from the Investor Group on Climate Change](#) shows many long-term investors are already factoring in climate change risks and net-zero emissions scenarios into their investment decisions and in their engagement with listed companies. This trend will continue.

"Accelerating the release of the private capital needed to decarbonise the Australian economy by mid-century will require a long-term strategy consistent with a smooth transition to net-zero emissions by 2050, including credible short-term targets and industry specific policies.

"The necessary transition to net-zero emissions by 2050 should also not be delayed by the use of carryover credits, and we note Labor's commitment to that effect.

"Ultimately, a clear and robust long-term strategy to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 would support economic growth, avoid unnecessary disruption, unlock investment opportunities and support a managed transition in communities impacted by shifting global and domestic markets."

---ENDS---

For further enquiries contact:

Tom Arup, Director, Strategic Communications, IGCC
Phone: 0402 482 910
Email: tom.arup@igcc.org.au