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# Statement of Commitment

This Statement of Commitment reflects our intent and commitment as the Australian municipalities currently hosting the coal-fired power generation infrastructure to provide our joint and considered response to the impending changes in the Australian energy sector, their impact on our transitioning communities and the emerging opportunities in the diversified market.

<sup>1</sup> "Just Transition" describes the transition towards a climate-resilient and low-carbon economy that maximises the benefits of climate action while minimising hardships for workers and their communities.

## STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

The signatories to this Joint Statement of Commitment (hereafter referred to as the Undersigned) recognise and jointly request that:

1. The Australian Government establishes a policy statement on coal development in Australia to provide a clear policy direction on the future use of coal, and certainty and clarity for industry, potential project proponents, investors, and affected local communities;
2. The Australian and State Governments actively support low emission technologies and alternative uses of carbon derived from coal, as part of the economic diversification of the regions of the Undersigned;
3. The Australian and State Governments recognise the important role of low emission coal fired power generation to supply constant, base load power to the Australian energy market, and provide strong support herein;
4. The Australian and State Governments recognise and consider the impacts on the Undersigned and their communities from the changes to the Australian energy sector, and conduct effective planning, engagement and support for Just Transition<sup>1</sup> to reduce disproportionate adverse impacts on the affected regions;
5. The Australian and State Governments closely consult and collaborate with the Undersigned and their communities throughout all phases of the transition.



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## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

### **PRINCIPLE 1: Promoting Economic Diversification and Utilisation of Carbon from Coal**

The Undersigned recognise that Australia's carbon resource presents a valuable and significant resource, which provide opportunities to manufacture diverse high value products and applications across industry sectors.

A long term commitment to research and investment in low emission technologies and innovation is required to realise the inherent value of regional carbon resources within the increasingly carbon-constrained environment. This needs to be supported by a strong Government position and a clear policy statement in relation to future coal development.

### **PRINCIPLE 2: Promoting Secure and Stable Baseload Power through Low Emission Technologies**

The Undersigned recognise that secure and stable energy supply and power system security are of fundamental importance to the efficient operation of the Australian economy.

Currently, there are limitations for renewables with respect to the ability to constantly supply the required electricity demand which will have implications for the electricity industry. Thus, there is a place for low emission coal fired power generation to continue to provide constant, base load power.

There are proven large-scale operating technologies that are capable of achieving significant improvements to emission profiles while providing an abundant supply of baseload energy from coal in support of the intermittent load generated from renewable sources.

### **PRINCIPLE 3: Promoting Effective Planning, Engagement and Consultation in support of Just Transition**

The Undersigned urge the Australian Government to introduce a strategic and staged transition plan, combined with a program of proactive and timely measures to ensure that the investment in the regions delivers value for money through targeted and prioritised approaches, any interventions are appropriate, and that all relevant parties are heard and appropriately engaged in this process.

This would ensure that the economic costs of Australia's energy sector transition are not disproportionately felt in the host regions which rely heavily upon coal-fired power generation industry as their economic backbone.

The Undersigned invite Australian and State Governments to engage in partnership in all discussions, policy and program planning and design with regards to the regions' continued transition. Creating a long-term, considered plan for transition towards a future of economic and social prosperity for these regions is necessary and achievable, and can be best driven with involvement from the local communities.

## SIGNATORIES

