



## **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

Between The Governments Of

**AUSTRALIA**

And

**THE NETHERLANDS**

On

**COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF HYDROGEN**

The Minister for Climate Change and Energy of Australia and the Minister for Climate and Energy Policy of The Netherlands (jointly hereinafter referred to as "Participants" and in the singular as 'Participant');

**AFFIRMING** the strong political, trade and investment ties between Australia and The Netherlands and the shared commitment to tackling climate change;

**AFFIRMING** the value of existing bilateral cooperation between the Participants, and the need to deepen this collaboration specifically for hydrogen and derivatives sourced from renewable energy;

**RECOGNISING** the mutual interest of the Participants in energy supply chain diversification, and upscaling hydrogen as a key energy carrier to meet each country's policy goals in emissions reduction, energy security and commitments adopted under the Paris Agreement (2015);

**RECOGNISING** the benefits of working together in supporting the creation of an international market, the development of technologies, the deployment of infrastructure, and setting up export-import corridors for hydrogen between Australia and the Netherlands, as a gateway to Europe;

**RECOGNISING** the importance of developing international hydrogen supply chains that align with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and that contribute to sustainable local development in both import- and exporting countries.

**MINDFUL** of existing agreements between Australian States and Territories with the Port of Rotterdam, valuable long-term research collaboration and the significant potential of both countries in production, storage, transport and use of hydrogen;

**WISHING** to enhance bilateral cooperation in the field of hydrogen on the basis of mutual social, economic and environmental benefits to the Participants in order to promote sustainable development, including decarbonisation of our economies.

**NOW THEREFORE, the Participants have reached the following understanding:**



## 1. OBJECTIVE

- a) The objective of this Memorandum of Understanding (here in after referred to as the "MoU") is to provide a framework for the Participants to promote and enhance cooperation in the field of hydrogen, based on the principles of equality and mutual respect of the Participants' sovereignty and policies.

## 2. SCOPE AND FORM OF COOPERATION

- a) Subject to their domestic laws, the Participants will enhance bilateral cooperation and knowledge sharing in fields such as:
  1. Hydrogen trade policy, standards and certification schemes;
  2. Port infrastructure and supply chain development;
  3. Innovative hydrogen technologies, including but not limited to shipping, equipment, and services
  4. Government policies regarding safety, skills and training, social license and regulations for hydrogen.
- b) Participants will promote investment in (joint) hydrogen projects, thereby creating new opportunities for companies and industry and supporting private-sector networks in accelerating the implementation of both countries' hydrogen strategies;
- c) Participants will develop a work plan to establish cooperative activities that will further support the aims of this MoU, which could include:
  - The promotion of research, education, innovation and academic exchange and ways to train professionals in the academic and non-academic sectors;
  - Facilitating supply-demand matchmaking covering investment and trade between hydrogen producers and off takers;
  - Co-host webinars/workshops to facilitate knowledge sharing on the topics mentioned under section 2a, also utilising the existing multilateral networks within the hydrogen international space where The Netherlands and Australia are both active, such the Hydrogen Initiative of the Clean Energy Ministerial (CEM), the International Energy Agency and the International Partnership for Hydrogen and Fuel Cells in the Economy (IPHE).



### **3. FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS**

- a) The implementation of the MoU will be subject to the availability of resources of the Participants;
- b) In connection with this MoU, each Participant will cover the costs of its own participants in the programs and projects of cooperation, unless otherwise jointly decided.

### **4. COMMUNICATION**

- a) Unless decided otherwise, the Participants will maintain confidentiality regarding any information shared or exchanged as well as outputs or results regarding this MoU;
- b) Communication related to this MoU will be coordinated primarily through the Netherlands Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy and the Australian Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water, with specific channels appropriate to various activities to be established according to the work plan described in clause 2c.

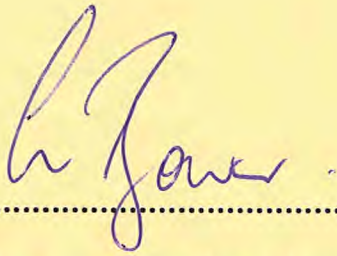
### **5. STATUS**

- a) This MoU does not create any legally binding obligations or confer any rights on the Participants under international law;
- b) Any differences regarding the interpretation, application and implementation of this MoU will be resolved amicably through consultation or negotiations between the Participants through diplomatic channels.

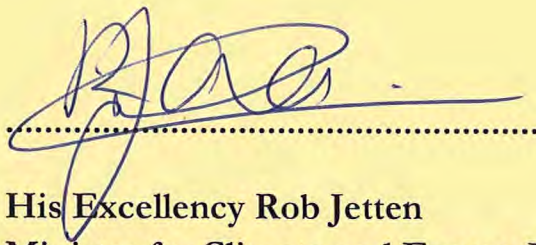
### **6. FINAL PROVISIONS**

- a) This MoU will come into effect on the date of its last signature by the Participants.
- b) This MoU will remain in effect for a period of five (5) years.
- c) The Participants may renew this MoU upon their mutual written consent.
- d) The Participants may amend this MoU at any time upon their mutual written consent.
- e) This MoU may be terminated by either Participant at any time by giving three (3) months' prior written notice of its intention to terminate this MoU through diplomatic channels.

Signed in duplicate in the English language in *Rotterdam* on this *30<sup>th</sup>* day  
of *January* 2023.



**The Honourable Chris Bowen MP**  
**Minister for Climate Change and Energy**



**His Excellency Rob Jetten**  
**Minister for Climate and Energy Policy**