



Australian Government

Department of Infrastructure, Transport,
Regional Development, Communications and the Arts

Australian Jet Zero Council

12 December 2023

Communiqué

This communiqué covers matters considered by the Australian Jet Zero Council on 12 December 2023

The Australian Jet Zero Council (Council) held its second meeting on 12 December 2023 at Western Sydney International (Nancy-Bird Walton) Airport (WSI).

Council met with WSI CEO, Simon Hickey, to discuss WSI's focus on sustainability in the design and construction of the new airport. Mr Hickey particularly noted that WSI will be enabled for Sustainable Aviation Fuel when it opens by late 2026, and that the Infrastructure Sustainability Council awarded the airport's bulk earthworks project a 'Leading Infrastructure Sustainability Design and As-built Rating'. The airport is in peak construction with more than 4,000 workers on site. Of these jobs, half have gone to Western Sydney workers, and around a third have gone to learning workers and apprentices, giving thousands of young residents the skills that will set them up for a lifetime of work. The project has injected more than \$400 million across the region through contracts awarded to more than 250 Western Sydney-based businesses, including small and medium enterprises, and family and First Nations businesses.

Council discussed recent international developments, noting that Australia is actively engaging with other nations on the urgency to decarbonise the global economy. The recent International Civil Aviation Organisation's (ICAO) Third Conference on Aviation and Alternative Fuels (CAAF/3) held in November 2023 saw Australia and other member states agree to strive to achieve a collective global aspirational vision to reduce CO2 emissions in international aviation by 5 per cent by 2030 through the use of sustainable aviation fuel, lower carbon aviation fuels and other aviation cleaner energies.

Council discussed the Transport and Infrastructure Net Zero Roadmap and Action Plan being developed by the Australian Government. The Roadmap and Action Plan will provide a clear strategy to:

- reduce emissions across the transport and infrastructure sector
- support national and international commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions
- maximise on economic and productivity opportunities
- provide investors with future investment certainty
- deliver a nationally consolidated approach to accelerate decarbonisation for key sectors.

The Roadmap and Action Plan will examine the potential pathways to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050 across all transport modes (road, aviation, maritime and rail), freight and supply chains, active transport planning, and supporting infrastructure). To support the development of the Roadmap and Action Plan, the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communication and the Arts will work with industry, government, states and territories, local government, peak bodies, unions and other interested stakeholders. The Department is currently seeking any initial suggestions and ideas that

stakeholders recommend be considered, with further information on how to contribute available at: <https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/infrastructure-transport-vehicles/transport-and-infrastructure-net-zero-roadmap-and-action-plan>

The Council finalised a workplan to guide its activities, with members agreeing to rapidly progress a number of work streams in the immediate term to establish the 'building blocks' of the regulatory and social environment needed to decarbonise aviation. A copy of the workplan is available online at: <https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/department/media/publications/australian-jet-zero-council-workplan>

The Council discussed work that Council members have progressed in consultation with other stakeholders across the aviation sector and its supply chains on the key policy drivers that could be considered by government to help drive a domestic SAF industry to support aviation decarbonisation. Members noted that time is of the essence with policy certainty key to building investor confidence, a comprehensive policy response would benefit from consideration of both demand and supply side measures, as well as the importance of feedstocks and enabling policy. Members noted the alignment across the sector in relation to these matters.

The Council also discussed work progressed by Council members on potential arrangements for SAF sustainability certification arrangements, noting that an effective certification (or assurance scheme) underpinned by a high integrity sustainability framework will be an essential building block for Australia's SAF industry. It was observed that it will be critical for providing confidence to consumers and the public that SAF produced and used in Australia is effective in reducing emissions, and will meet other environment and social expectations. Members are also conscious that SAF is a globally tradable commodity and an Australian sustainability certification system needs to consider carefully its interoperability into a global market.