



13 December 2023

[REDACTED]  
Department of Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry  
70 Northbourne Avenue  
Canberra ACT 2601

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Dear Mr Blong

**Consultation on Agriculture, Land and Emissions Discussion Paper**

The Minerals Council of Australia (MCA) representing Australia's minerals exploration, mining and processing industry appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback to the consultation: Agriculture, Land and Emissions by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF).

The mining industry recognises the need to reduce emissions globally, nationally and at the sites and facilities driving Australia's resources industry. In June 2020, the MCA and members launched the *Climate Action Plan* as a clear commitment to do the work needed to achieve net zero emissions by 2050 in support of the goals of the Paris Agreement.

As the Australian Government has recognised, policy must be enacted in a manner that keeps Australian industries strong. Australia has a significant role to play in supporting the global energy transition. In FY22, Australia's exports of minerals, metals and energy commodities was worth \$413 billion and accounted for 69 per cent of the nation's export revenue.

Over the last decade the industry has paid \$254 billion in taxes and royalties. These contributions support stronger communities by helping to fund hospitals, schools, doctors, nurses, police, teachers and other essential services and infrastructure.

The industry is also critical in supporting regions and communities, including providing 1.1 million jobs in Australia supported by the mining equipment, technology and services sectors.

In the development of a sectoral decarbonisation plan for Agriculture, it is important that the government carefully consider the possibility of unintended consequences such as impacts on the Australian Carbon Credit Unit (ACCU) market.

The complex nature of safeguard mechanism means that the government needs to be mindful in formulating decarbonisation policy to ensure there are no adverse impacts on safeguard mechanism covered facilities.

This means the government needs to have a view across portfolios and examine potential consequences in policy areas outside of Agriculture.

The government and the mining industry must continue to work together to develop appropriate enabling policy frameworks to achieve net zero goals and maintain Australian industry competitiveness.

The pathway will not be linear for all industries, but great progress is being made across mining.

Achievement of both the 2030 target and the 2050 net zero ambition will require close consultation and collaboration with all stakeholders.

The industry seeks change that is manageable, orderly, and establishes an appropriate regulatory framework for industry and the nation to achieve medium- and long-term emissions targets.

We thank you for the opportunity to comment and look forward to engaging constructively with the Government on these important reforms. We stand ready to help the Government put Australia on the path to meeting its emissions reduction targets and contribute to the achievement of the Paris Agreement goals.

Should the Climate Policy team wish to discuss any of the above further, please feel free to contact MCA Chief Economist ([Dr. Ross Lambie](#)) and / or General Manager – Climate and Energy ([Mr. Daniel Zavattiero](#)).

Yours sincerely

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Tania Constable PSM.

**TANIA CONSTABLE PSM**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**