



SENATOR THE HON TIM AYRES

Minister for Industry and Innovation

Minister for Science

STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS FOR THE NET ZERO ECONOMY AUTHORITY

The Net Zero Economy Authority (the Authority) plays a pivotal role in the Government's objectives of maintaining and diversifying Australia's industrial base as part of a broader economic transformation as the world reduces its carbon emissions.

The Authority's work is central to strengthening Australia's industrial capabilities and securing our economic and national security. The Government expects the Authority to align its activities with national priorities while promoting an orderly and positive economic transformation as global decarbonisation progresses. This transition must ensure workers, regions and communities share the benefits.

I expect the Authority to achieve a 'force multiplier' effect in priority regions by working across the Commonwealth and with state and local governments, business and community groups. The Authority will leverage all available capabilities, programs and levers available within my portfolio and coordinate across other Commonwealth portfolios to drive a joined-up approach.

Consistent with its function to support Australia's shift to a net zero emissions economy, I expect the Authority to accelerate its efforts to coordinate industrial transition in priority regions by:

- Facilitating investment in priority regions
- Supporting the regional areas most affected by the transition to net zero
- Administering the Energy Industry Jobs Plan
- Working collaboratively to deliver industrial investment into regional Australia
- Increasing understanding and awareness about electricity system change, investment, industrial projects and employment opportunities in priority regions
- Working collaboratively with my office and the Department of Industry, Science and Resources
- Ensuring effective governance, operation and reporting

Facilitating investment in priority regions

The Authority should facilitate public and private sector investment in priority regions. The Authority should work with industry and communities to identify project opportunities and connect proponents to investors and investment vehicles, such as the National Reconstruction Fund.

Regional investment efforts should align with broader priorities such as using Australian made products in projects, including Australian steel in wind towers, Australian structural steel in solar projects and Australian batteries in energy projects.

Investment projects should align with the Future Made in Australia Community Benefit Principles.

Supporting the regional areas most affected by the transition to net zero

The Authority should operate nationally and flexibly, recognising that the transition to net zero will not be uniform across Australia.

It should continue to lead preparations for industrial diversification in its current priority regions, focusing on impacted workers and the wider community. The Authority will engage with regions identified through its regional identification framework as being significantly impacted by the transition to net zero: Collie in Western Australia, the Hunter Valley in New South Wales, Gladstone in Central Queensland and the Latrobe Valley in Victoria. The Authority should also work with regions best placed to benefit from emerging industries, such as the Pilbara and Upper Spencer Gulf.

Given the Authority's role and expertise supporting orderly regional industrial transitions, I ask that the Authority contribute its expertise to work led by my department on major industrial transitions.

To facilitate active community engagement, I expect that the Authority will establish a credible regional capability in priority regions.

Administering the Energy Industry Jobs Plan

In its administration of the Energy Industry Jobs Plan (EIJP) the Authority will set a standard for worker transition management, focusing on helping workers prepare for and secure quality jobs and supporting regional resilience. Special attention should be paid to cases that attract significant public concern. The Authority should ensure the EIJP is delivered alongside supports provided by the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations and state governments, so that all individuals receive timely and effective assistance in a joined-up, cohesive and equitable manner.

This is a new area of regulation and compliance which includes initiating proceedings, and promoting compliance, monitoring, and enforcement as needed. Additionally, the Authority should promote broad business and trade union involvement in redeployment programs and collaborate with relevant government departments on complementary initiatives.

When responding to the statutory review of the operation of Part 5 of the NZEA Act 2024, the Authority should promptly consider any recommendations that fall within the CEO's remit and report on progress where relevant. I also ask that the Authority work collaboratively with my department to provide advice to me on any recommendations that extend beyond the CEO's authority.

Working collaboratively to deliver industrial investment into regional Australia

Persistent and effective collaboration is central to the Authority's mission to facilitate investment in new energy generation and transmission projects and industrial facilities in the Hunter, Collie, Central Queensland, Latrobe Valley, Pilbara and Upper Spencer Gulf.

Within my portfolio, I expect the Authority to actively engage with the Department of Industry, Science and Resources, Geoscience Australia, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, and the National Reconstruction Fund Corporation.

Beyond my portfolio, the Authority should continue to build strong partnerships. This includes with other investment mechanisms, identify transformation opportunities in regional communities, and leverage collaborative networks to attract investment. These networks should extend to place-based networks, such as the AusIndustry Regional Managers Network, and to the locally-based teams of the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations.

The Authority must work to align policies and programs across government, publish clear and accessible reports and advice, and engage directly with communities, peak bodies, First Nations people, unions and employers.

To support communities and workers through this period of change, the Authority will collaborate with the Office for Women, and other relevant portfolios to create safe, secure jobs and foster a skilled, inclusive workforce – one that fully includes women.

The Authority will partner with the Treasury, the National Indigenous Australians Agency and the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water to ensure renewable energy projects translate into meaningful economic and employment opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

Increasing understanding and awareness about electricity system change, investment, industrial projects and employment opportunities in priority regions

The Authority plays an essential role in communicating notification of closures and information about the government's Future Made in Australia economic diversification strategy to communities, workers, and their families in its priority regions, as well as businesses and investors.

Information should be factual, locally credible and accessible for regional communities. The Authority should discuss and profile the new industrial opportunities as well as communicate about closing coal and gas fired power stations.

While the focus of the Authority is its priority regions, netzero.gov.au should also be a central information hub for Australians looking for information about electricity system change, investment, industrial projects and employment opportunities in the Authority's priority regions.

A diverse range of communications activities should be undertaken and their success measured: place-based engagement and face-to-face, media pitching and outreach, digital media.

Working collaboratively with my office and the Department of Industry, Science and Resources

I expect the Authority to maintain close coordination with my office and department. This includes providing timely notice of major announcements, events, consultations, media and communication

activities. It also includes early consultation on significant documents including Corporate Plans and Annual Reports. Strong engagement will assist with linking the Authority into the wider APS operating context in which it operates as well as serve to make connections between – and join up effort – as appropriate.

Ensuring effective governance, operation and reporting

As a newly established entity with an ambitious and important remit, I expect the Authority to demonstrate strong leadership and rapidly evolve its governance maturity, ensuring the Board, CEO and all staff are aware of, and operating in line with, all relevant obligations. This includes complying with the functions and requirements of the NZEA Act 2024 and the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act 2013). I also expect the Authority to uphold the Australian Public Service Values and to apply and uphold rigorous governance, ethical conduct, transparency and accountability.

As the responsible minister, I will provide an enabling environment for the Authority to implement policy changes and administer the EIJP by ensuring the Authority is fully informed of the Government's policy direction including initiatives and strategies.

Statement of Intent

I would appreciate your response to this letter in the form of a statement of intent within three months of receipt of this statement of expectations. The Authority's response should outline how the Authority proposes to meet my expectations. I look forward to continuing to work together to promote an orderly and positive economic transformation as the world decarbonises.

Yours sincerely



27 NOV 2025

Senator the Hon Tim Ayres

Minister for Industry and Innovation

Minister for Science