



Australian Government

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

# Australian Jet Zero Council

15 August 2023

Communiqué

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*This communiqué covers matters considered by the Australian Jet Zero Council on 15 August 2023*

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The Australian Jet Zero Council (Council) held its inaugural meeting on 15 August 2023 at Brisbane Airport.

Council noted its Terms of Reference commit it to three main objectives:

1. Providing senior industry leadership on efforts to achieve net zero aviation in Australia;
2. Providing coordinated advice to the Australian Government, through the Minister for Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Local Government, on policy and regulatory issues related to facilitating the aviation industry's transition to net zero. This could cover issues including, but not limited to:
  - a. the development of a sustainable aviation fuel (SAF) industry (e.g. production, refining, transport and logistics capabilities) and other net zero capabilities that will create Australian jobs, having regard to Australia's competitive advantages and commercial feasibility considerations;
  - b. other measures that will reduce aviation emissions at least cost to industry, government and consumers, having regard to competitive neutrality considerations; and
  - c. measures to enhance Australia's aviation fuel security supply chains; and
3. Promoting, mobilising and galvanising industry efforts to decarbonise aviation.

In its pursuit of these objectives, Council will work with stakeholders across the country to ensure a strong and sustainable aviation sector that supports emissions reduction targets, while growing jobs and innovation.

While Council's advice will help inform the development of government policy, the Council is not, of itself, a decision-making body. Council advice is expected to complement, not duplicate, other government processes such as the Aviation White Paper. Members noted that any major policy initiatives that may be considered by Government would be subject to broader consultation at the appropriate time.

Members agreed to abide by the Council's Code of Conduct, as set out in its Terms of Reference. The Council Terms of Reference are available at:

<https://www.infrastructure.gov.au/departments/media/publications/australian-jet-zero-council-terms-reference>.

The Council noted that global demand for solutions to reduce aviation emissions, such as SAF, is substantial and rapidly growing, and the focus of significant effort across industry and governments. This contributes to the urgency associated with the task of decarbonising aviation.

The Council discussed the *Sustainable Aviation Fuel Roadmap* (the Roadmap) developed in partnership between CSIRO and Boeing. The Roadmap estimates that Australia is currently sitting on enough resources to produce almost 5 billion litres of SAF by 2025. This could supply nearly 60% of jet fuel demand projected for that year. However, the Council noted there is currently a lack of production capability in Australia, and that such production capability takes time and requires capital to develop. Council members also discussed overseas drivers of demand and international market developments that could be further explored by Council, and the role that domestic SAF production could play in supporting fuel security. The Roadmap is available at: <https://www.csiro.au/safroadmap>.

The Council committed to a workplan to guide its activities, with members agreeing to commence a number of work streams in the immediate term to establish the ‘building blocks’ of the regulatory and social environment needed to decarbonise aviation. Immediate priorities for rapid progress include:

- establishing the ‘building blocks’ of an Australian SAF market through:
  - the development of preferred arrangements for SAF certification to provide assurance of the environmental credentials and provenance of SAF;
  - building SAF literacy and social licence;
  - developing advice on how the benefits of SAF use can be best accounted for;
  - developing advice on facilitating feedstock supply, including by utilising and leveraging domestic resources;
  - developing options for a National Framework for Voluntary Consumer Purchasing of SAF;
  - advice on the development of a SAF industry and eco-system in Australia, which includes, but is not limited to, end-to-end supply chain development, identification and supply of feedstock, SAF production and domestic demand that can increase market confidence and drive investment;
- identifying changes required to airport operations and infrastructure that will support decarbonising aviation; and
- developing advice on the policy frameworks needed to support the establishment of a thriving SAF industry, including policy and regulatory settings to encourage investment and facilitate feedstock supply, SAF production and use, as well as developing other emerging technologies that will maximise aviation’s contribution to net zero including electric propulsion.

The Council will further consider its workplan at its next meeting.