



Media release

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* FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE *

Global Climate Change Leader Appointed as CEO of the Carbon Market Institute

Leader in international climate action John Connor will join the Carbon Market Institute (CMI) as the new Chief Executive Officer.

Mr Connor brings over twenty-five years' experience working on public and business policy with a focus on climate, sustainability and development issues. John joins CMI following the successful conclusion of two years as Executive Director of the Fijian Government's COP23 Presidency Secretariat. In that role John managed the Secretariat's strategic, logistic and policy support functions as Fiji presided over UNFCCC negotiations.

CMI Interim Chair Megan Flynn said John's leadership in global climate change action and ambition coupled with his deep technical and market knowledge would be a great asset to CMI.

"It will enhance our ability to help drive the growth in breadth and depth of Australian carbon markets and the critical role they play in delivering on Australia's international climate action targets and ambition", she said.

"It is critical that forward-thinking Australian business have a strong voice as the Paris Agreement comes into force in 2020. John's leadership will enable our members to access the plethora of opportunities that are emerging from the net-zero emission transition now underway".

"John is well known across Australia from his previous decade-long role as CEO of The Climate Institute, overseeing its focus on national policy, institutional investor and international climate diplomacy".

"John's broad experience across domestic and international climate policy, business and markets will enable CMI to continue to lead best practice in Australian carbon market integrity, liquidity and international linkages. It will also assist CMI to advocate on behalf of its members to unlock new opportunities and better manage risks in the broader climate policy landscape".

Mr Connor said he was delighted to undertake this role at a crucial stage in the national and international response to the climate crisis facing the world.

"The Carbon Market Institute's business membership richly displays the opportunities and innovations that can drive the private sector's response to climate change", he said.

"Like many governments, financial institutions, investors, businesses and community groups, CMI recognises the need for net zero emissions by 2050".



“In the two years I have supported the Fijian government’s presidency of international climate negotiations, much has changed. We have seen the continued growth of carbon markets; dramatic improvements in the affordability of clean technology, and; an escalation of focus from financial and prudential regulators.

“Increasingly around the world, there is much greater recognition of current climate dangers and the importance of pursuing decarbonisation efforts to limit average global warming to 1.5 degrees”.

I look forward to working with the CMI staff, board, members, national and state governments and regulators in helping meet and beat the goal of net-zero emissions by 2050. Together we will make CMI, and Australia, a centre of excellence in carbon market integrity, innovation and linkage with international efforts”.

Mr Connor has worked on numerous boards as well as government and business advisory panels. He is a qualified lawyer and graduate of the Australian Institute of Corporate Directors. John has helped lead the formation of numerous alliances of business and community groups in the pursuit of an urgent but inclusive and just transition to the opportunities of decarbonised economies and societies.

We look forward to welcoming Mr Connor to the Carbon Market Institute, and joining him in hosting the Institute’s flagship event – the **6th Australasian Emissions Reduction Summit on the 8th & 9th of May 2019 at the MCG in Melbourne. For more information and to register [click here](#).**

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The Carbon Market Institute is at the centre of climate change policy and business in Australia. Independent and non-partisan, we bring business, policy makers and thought leaders together to drive the evolution of carbon markets towards a significant and positive impact on climate change.

Engaging leaders, shaping policy and driving action, we're helping business to seize opportunities in the transition to a low carbon economy.