



**THE HON JOSH FRYDENBERG MP**  
**Minister for the Environment and Energy**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**AUSTRALIA AND ISRAEL COMMEMORATE  
THE BATTLE OF BEERSHEBA**

Between 27 October and 2 November, I am travelling to Israel to attend commemorations in Beersheba with the Hon Malcolm Turnbull MP, Prime Minister of Australia, and the Hon Dan Tehan MP, Minister for Veterans' Affairs, to mark the 100-year anniversary of the Battle of Beersheba.

The Battle of Beersheba took place on 31 October 1917 as part of a wider British offensive known as the third Battle of Gaza.

The final phase of the Battle included the famous charge of the 4th Light Horse Brigade which saw British and allied forces break Turkish defences and led to the British Empire breaking through the Ottoman forces line near Gaza. This included Light Horse regiments from Australia. I feel honoured to attend these commemorations to remember our fallen heroes.

While in Israel, I will meet with Dr Yuval Steinitz MK, Minister of National Infrastructure, Energy and Water, to promote further collaboration and bilateral engagement on a range of energy issues. It will also provide an opportunity for me to share recent announcements related to the National Energy Guarantee.

At a meeting with General Electric, we will discuss developments in Israel solar technology such as Megalim solar and the Gilboa pumped hydro plant.

When operational, the electricity generated by Megalim's solar thermal plant Ashelim will be enough to supply 120,000 homes. The project will also create up to 1,000 jobs at peak construction. The Gilboa pumped hydro energy storage plant is presently in the construction stage and is designed to produce 300 megawatts at electrical peak tariff hours by utilising an elevation difference of about 510 metres.

I will host a roundtable of energy and technology companies which specialise in battery storage solutions and the creation of new storage solutions and batteries.

Participants like Phinergy, Storedot, ETV Energy along with Negev Energy and GE Israel will discuss Israel's experiences with lithium batteries, pumped hydro, solar power and methods that enable clean energy to be more effectively transferred to the electricity grid. GE will also participate in the roundtable discussions.

I look forward to reinforcing Australia's strong ties with Israel and the pursuit of understanding evolving and developing technologies for energy solutions.

**Ends**