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Minister for the Environment and Energy

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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### **AUSTRALIA AND ISRAEL SIGN A DECLARATION OF INTENT ON ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION**

Today I was pleased to sign a Declaration of Intent on bilateral environmental cooperation with Mr Ze'ev Elkin MK, the Israeli Minister for Environmental Protection.

The Declaration covers areas where cooperation on environmental protection will benefit both countries and further strengthen our bilateral relationship.

The signing builds on the successful visit of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to Australia earlier this year and delivers on a commitment from the Joint Statement with Prime Minister Malcom Turnbull.

I look forward to exchanging information and ideas on areas ranging from waste and water to biodiversity and ecosystems including invasive species.

This includes the disposal of end of life renewables such as batteries and solar panels as well as coastal management and mapping.

Australia can learn from Israel's advanced environmental technology in renewable energy and its sophisticated start-up ecosystem.

The Declaration provides an additional avenue for us to work with Israel on international bodies in areas of mutual interest like the International Whaling Commission.

**Ends**