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Minister for the Environment and Energy

**MEDIA RELEASE**

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**THIRD ASIA-PACIFIC RAINFOREST SUMMIT**

Tomorrow, I will travel to Yogyakarta, Indonesia, to represent Australia at the third Asia-Pacific Rainforest Summit.

The Summit is part of the Australian Government-initiated Asia-Pacific Rainforest Partnership which establishes a dialogue between leaders in government, research, community and the private sector to progress action against deforestation and forest degradation in South-East Asia and the Pacific Islands.

The Paris Climate Change Agreement highlights the importance of forests in combating climate change, with many countries in our region making commitments to decrease deforestation and forest degradation.

Building on the success of the first Asia-Pacific Rainforest Summit, held in 2014 in Sydney, and second, held in 2016 in Brunei, the Summit will provide a platform for collaboration and focus on helping countries in the region achieve their Paris Agreement commitments.

As part of the Summit, I will deliver a keynote address that highlights the action Australia is taking to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 26 to 28 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030. Consistent with the Summit's theme, *Protecting Forests and People - Supporting Economic Growth*, Australia has set its goal not only to meet our international commitments to reduce emissions, but also to do so while ensuring our international competitiveness, jobs growth and energy security and affordability are maintained.

At the Summit, I will also meet with representatives from government, research, community and the private sector to discuss and promote action on the sustainable management of forests.

Rainforest conservation is a critical and practical step that we can take to improve environmental resilience and mitigate the effects of climate change. At the global level, we know that tropical forests store 25 per cent of world's carbon and the Asia-Pacific region has some of the most significant tracts of rainforest in the world.

About one billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> is released each year in our region as a result of deforestation and land degradation, contributing to an estimated 10 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions. This is nearly double the amount of emissions Australia produces annually from every sector of the economy combined.

Australia has worked in close partnership with Indonesia to organise this year's Summit and our relationship has strengthened as a result. I look forward to working with all our Asia-Pacific neighbours at the Summit to protect our region's rainforests and lower global carbon emissions.

Further information is available at: [www.cifor.org/asia-pacific-rainforest-summit-2018/](http://www.cifor.org/asia-pacific-rainforest-summit-2018/)

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