Report to Parliament

| Overseas Travel

| 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21), Paris

| Saturday 5 December – Wednesday 9 December 2015

The Honourable Dr Steven Miles MP

Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef

Overseas Travel Report

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Paris, France | Saturday 5 December – Wednesday 9 December 2015

Purpose of travel

To represent Queensland at the 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21). The function of which was to review progress and implementation of the United Nations Framework on Climate Change (UNFCCC) held in Paris. And in particular to ensure that world leaders were aware of the plight of the Great Barrier Reef as they deliberated on a new agreement to limit global warming.

From 30 November to 11 December 2015, the international community met in Paris to negotiate the post-2020 international agreement for stabilising emissions to prevent dangerous climate change at COP21.

Prior to the Paris negotiations, parties were required to submit Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) - statements which publicly outline the emission reduction actions a country intends to take under a global agreement. In developing Australia's INDC, the Queensland Government called on the Australian Government to adopt a bold and ambitious Australian post-2020 emissions reduction target based on the recommendations of the independent Climate Change Authority. We also affirmed Queensland's willingness to play our part in addressing both the causes and consequences of climate change.

Unfortunately, the target announced by the Australian Government of 26-28% reduction on 2005 levels by 2030 fell well short of the 40-60% reduction on 2000 levels recommended by the Climate Change Authority.

It is clear that much of the heavy lifting on carbon pollution reduction will fall to the states and territories. Queensland's communities, economy and ecosystems, including the Great Barrier Reef, are particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts. However, we are also well positioned to be leaders on a national and international level on climate change action - as indeed Queensland was under former Labor governments.

The work of subnational governments to reduce carbon pollution is increasingly featuring in the global dialogue on climate change and it is important that the international community appreciate that the Australian community and many Australian governments support strong climate policy despite the low targets set by the Commonwealth Government.

Outcomes achieved

The outcome of the conference as a whole was very positive with an agreement to limit global temperatures to "well below 2°C".

The Paris Agreement has the potential to become a catalytic instrument for business innovation and technology development and we hope it inspires more appropriate targets from our Federal Government as well as long term policy that encourages businesses to adopt clean energy practices.

The conference was attended by a large number of representatives from local, state and provincial governments and we had the opportunity to share knowledge on climate change strategy.

The conference also provided an opportunity to observe the processes involved in developing complex agreements at international and national levels.

There was no doubt that the UNFCCC and its constituents were committed to tackling climate change. There was a sense that there was a paradigm shift which reflected there was no longer denial of the evidence of climate change and that its impact would be global. Importantly, the conference provided a forum to discuss key strategies for dealing with climate change at all levels of government.

Delegation members

Steven Miles MP	Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef
Jim Reeves	Director-General, Department of Environment and Heritage Protection
Katharine Wright	Media Advisor for Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef

Other members of the Australian delegation to the 21st Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21)

Malcolm Turnbull	Prime Minister of Australia
Julie Bishop	Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs
Greg Hunt	Australian Minister for the Environment
Peter Woolcott	Australia's Ambassador to the Environment
George Mina	Australia's Ambassador to UNESCO
Jay Weatherill	Premier of South Australia
lan Hunter	Minister for Sustainability, Environment and Conservation, Minister for Water and the River Murray, Minister for Climate

Change, South Australia

Attorney-General, Minister for Capital Metro, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Environment and Minister for Health, Australian Capital Territory

Kate Wood

Executive Director, Climate Change, Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning, Victoria

Itinerary and program highlights

NB Events are shown in local time

SATURDAY 5 December 2015 - WEDNESDAY 9 December 2015		
Travelling (depart Brisbane, travel to Paris, France via D	Dubai)	
SUNDAY 5 December 2015		
Event	Attendees	
Registration and Meeting with Commonwealth	Jim Reeves	
Officials for COP Stakeholder briefing by DFAT	Director General, EHP	
Officials at Le Bourget Parc des Expositions		
	Representatives from all Australian	
High level briefing delivered by: Assistant Secretary,	delegations	
Sustainability and Climate Change, Mr Geoff Tooth		
and Assistant Director Climate Analytics and		
Partnerships Ms Kate Hancock		

Meeting summary

- Mr Tooth provided a detailed briefing of the state of negotiations.
- He anticipated intense negotiations through to the conclusion of the conference.
- Negotiations are complex as this is the phase where local and sectoral interests are at play, and where geopolitical and social factors frame discussion.
- There was agreement at all levels of Government "in the body of the agreement".
- Dissonance between developed, undeveloped and developing nations around matters such as
 fuel sources for power generation in the developing economies this issue clearly articulated
 by Indian PM Modi, in his address, where there were strong references to "human rights"
 where access to reliable electricity would be based on cost effective sources (predominantly
 coal fired generation) of electricity.
- Other issues related to Pacific Island inundation are part of the dialogue.
- It was also stressed that the process going forward will rest heavily on the development and implementation of the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) by the signatories to the agreement. It will also turn on the establishment of baseline and metrics which reflect performance and impact of actions contained in the INDCs.
- Mr Tooth also outlined logistics and administrative arrangements, and the support DFAT would delegates of state governments.

Invitation Only Event: Special Screening of the new	Jim Reeves
BBC Television Series – 'Great Barrier Reef with	Director General, EHP

David Attenborough' Greg Hunt Federal Minister for Environment Richard Di Natale Leader of the Greens Larissa Waters Greens Senator, Queensland Fanny Douvere Director, Marine Environment, WHC Kellie Caught WWF National Manager for Climate Change Katharine Wright Media Advisor, Minister Miles

Event Summary:

- Panel discussion by some of the world's foremost thought-leaders: Sir David Attenborough, Sir Richard Branson, Dr Sylvia Earle an American marine biologist, explorer and author and Marco Lambertini the Director General of WWF International.
- The discussion was facilitated by Professor Ove Hoegh-Guldberg the Director of the Global Change Institute at the University of Queensland reinforcing the natural/environmental/ecological uniqueness of the GBR and its vulnerabilities. He said he once calculated what it would cost to replant the GBR with 5 species of coral – not the 600 plus that have been discovered –and it cost something like 3 trillion dollars every 15 years.
- They also stressed the importance of reducing the impacts of climate change particularly as
 they relate to temperature increases in the marine environment which would have significant
 impacts on the health of the GBR.
- Sir David Attenborough stressed the cost of NOT doing anything to limit climate change was
 gigantic given that 70% of all fish species are dependent on coral reefs at some stage in their
 lives.
- Sir Richard Branson said he was working on a project with Bill Gates called the Breakthrough Energy Coalition to provide breakthrough finance for delivering renewable energy technologies over and above those that have been delivered through market forces.
- Dr Earle hailed Australia's support for strong action on climate change and efforts to protect
 the Great Barrier Reef saying Australia had taken actions that are a model for the world,
 actions that others should emulate in terms of assessing an area under national jurisdiction.
- Screening of David Attenborough latest documentary on the GBR.
- The evening provided an excellent opportunity to showcase the Great Barrier Reef and the implications of climate change on this globally significant asset.
- It was very clear that there remains strong international interest and concern about the prospects of the Great Barrier Reef, and an awareness that we must limit global warming in order to ensure the reefs long term survival.

Dinner with Fanny Douvere, Co-ordinator of the	Fanny Douvere
UNESCO World Heritage Centre's marine program	Director, Marine Environment, WHC

Jim Reeves
Director General, EHP
David Obura
Cordio East Africa, Director of Coastal
Oceans Research and Development
Katharine Wright
Media Advisor, Minister Miles
Russell Reichelt
Chairman of the Great Barrier Reef
Marine Park Authority

Meeting Summary:

- Informal discussion regarding progress implementing the long term sustainability plan.
- Minister outlined current status of activities being undertaken under the reef action plan.

SUNDAY 6 December 2015

Event	Attendees
	Jim Reeves
	Director General, EHP
Queensland delegation briefing	Katharine Wright Media Advisor, Minister Miles

Meeting summary:

• The Queensland delegation met to review schedule, arrange additional meetings and assign tasks to group.

Subnational Global Climate Leadership Memorandum of Understanding "Under 2 MOU" signing ceremony and lunch

For a full list of the Alliance please visit: http://www.theclimategroup.org/what-we-do/network/

Meeting summary

- Many states and provinces around the world have signed an MOU committing to take the steps necessary to limit global warming to less than 2 degrees, including California and South Australia.
- Held at the US embassy, the signing ceremony saw further states sign the MOU.
- While Queensland is not yet in a position to sign the MOU, this event provided an opportunity to talk with state leaders and learn some of the policies states are implementing.

	Around 100 guests including:
Launch of the Global Solar Council	Mark Butler Shadow Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water
	Richard Di Natale Leader of the Greens
	John Grimes

	CEO of the Australian Solar Council
	CEO of the Australian Solar Council
	Amanda McKenzie
	CEO of the Climate Council
Event summary:Signing of MOU and launch of the world's first ded	icated and unified body for the solar
industry, the Global Solar Council.	
 The Council is designed to unify the solar power se business, politics, and civil society to accelerate the 	
developments.The Australian Solar Council is a member of the ne	w Clobal Council
• The Australian Solar Council is a member of the ne	Christine Bargain
	Director Social and environmental
	responsibility, La Poste
	responsibility, Ed i oste
	António Neves de Carvalho
	Head of Corporate Sustainability Office,
	Energias de Portugal
RE-energising the Future - Businesses Leading The	
Way Towards A Renewable Energy Future	Bjørn Otto Sverdrup
,	Senior Vice President of Sustainability,
	Statoil
	Bill Weihl
	Director of Sustainability, Facebook
	,,
	John Woolard
	Vice-President Energy, Google
Event summary	
 Business leaders demonstrated that renewable en 	
sense, quite apart from their benefits for climate a	
 Speakers addressed why deployment of renewable 	e energy was economically sensible for their
companies	
How the CEO became convinced to invest in renew there in the company.	vable energy and what it took to convince
 others in the company How they as CEOs foster innovation 	
How they as CEOs foster innovation	lan Hunter
	Minister for Sustainability, Environment
	and Conservation, Minister for Water and
	the River Murray, Minister for Climate
	Change, South Australia
Dinner with South Australian and Australian Capital	Tom Mooney
Territory Delegation	Chief of Staff, Minister Hunter
	Simon Coukell
	Simon Corbell Attorney Coneral Minister for Canital
	Attorney-General, Minister for Capital Metro, Minister for Police and Emergency
	Services, Minister for the Environment
	and Minister for Health ACT

and Minister for Health, ACT

Monika Boogs Chief of Staff, Minster Corbell
Dorte Ekelund Director General, Environment and Planning, ACT
Katharine Wright Media Advisor, Minister Miles

Meeting summary

Discussion of progress in negotiations at conference

MONDAY 7 December 2015		
Event	Attendees	
	Jim Reeves	
	Director General, EHP	
Queensland delegation briefing	Katharine Wright Media Advisor, Minister Miles	
Meeting summary:		
Daily planning session.		
General Assembly of the States and Regions Alliance, the Climate Group - Salon Bertrand of Paris City Hall (l'Hotel de Ville).	For a full list of the Alliance please visit: http://www.theclimategroup.org/what- we-do/network/	

Meeting summary:

- The General Assembly is an annual meeting of members of the States and Regions Alliance, held alongside the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP) meeting.
- The aim of the meeting was to ensure the Alliance stayed united and committed to meeting peak global emissions by 2020. The States and Regions Alliance celebrated its 10th anniversary this month. Since its creation, Alliance membership has seen significant growth in the regions of North America, Europe, and Australia along with some members from Mexico, Brazil, South Africa, China and India.
- All subnational representatives from states/provinces spoke on local issues and initiatives in relation to Climate Change. Many states were implementing initiatives to decarbonise their environment. These include significant investments in clean energy through to economic instruments such as reverse auctions and cap and trade systems.
- There was a general commitment among the group to develop mechanisms, share experiences and accelerate initiatives.
- It provided a very relevant forum for subnational group to describe drivers of policy change in their particular regions.
- The meeting reinforced the key role being played by Sub-National Governments (State and Provincial) in managing the impacts of climate change.
- As the representative of the Queensland Government the Minister reported on Climate
 Change related initiatives being undertaken in Queensland, including the future of the Great

Barrier Reef.

- Reports were also made by representatives of NSW, Vic, South Australia and the ACT.
- This meeting was the first since Queensland re-joined the alliance after a three year absence.

Fanny Douvere Director, Marine Environment, WHC George Mina Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Australia to UNESCO Jim Reeves Director General, EHP Katharine Wright Media Advisor, Minister Miles

Meeting summary:

- Formally briefed Ms Douvere on Queensland's progress implementing the Great Barrier Reef Long Term Sustainability Plan.
- Update on progress in implementing activities to improve the health of the GBR
- Update on recent passing of the Sustainable Ports Bill including the details of the final legislation and ensure UNESCO was aware of last minute amendments regarding future development of Cairns port.

	Julie Bishop Minister for Foreign Affairs
Australian Reception hosted by Hon Julie Bishop MP	Jim Reeves Director General, EHP
	Katharine Wright Media Advisor, Minister Miles
	Australian delegation

Event summary:

- Around 200 Australian delegates to COP21 joined Ms Bishop for the reception.
- General discussions with other Australian delegates and representatives

TUESDAY 8 December 2015

Event	Attendees
	Jim Reeves
	Director General, EHP
Queensland delegation briefing	Katharine Wright Media Advisor, Minister Miles
Meeting summary:	•
Daily planning sossion	

• Daily planning session.

Meeting with Andrew Grant, Managing Director of	Jim Reeves
Tasman Environmental Markets and on board of the	Director General, EHP
Climate Market Institute	

Katharine Wright
Media Advisor, Minister Miles

Meeting Summary:

- Mr Grant had undertaken advisory work for the Victorian government including a recent workshop on bio commodities
- General discussion on matters including biofuels as an emerging fuel source
- General discussion on mechanisms for carbon trading and cap and trade processes

	Jim Reeves
Meeting with Chris Barrett - Executive Director,	Director General, EHP
Finance and Economics European Climate	
Foundation	Katharine Wright
	Media Advisor, Minister Miles

Meeting Summary:

- Before joining the European Climate Foundation, Chris Barrett was Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Australia to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) for three years.
- Chris discussed the work he was undertaking to lead the development of an international strategy on the potential and logic of the low-carbon transition from an economic and financial perspective.
- Mr Barrett successfully raises funds from the corporate sector for German based think tank offered to share experience with EHP
- We discussed a range of opportunities and challenges for Queensland as the energy sector changes to renewable energy and storage, and how government policy can address those challenges.

	Jim Reeves
Meeting with Jie Zhang, Vice President Hareon Solar	Director General, EHP
- Global Development	
	Katharine Wright
	Media Advisor, Minister Miles

Meeting Summary:

- Mr Zhang said Hareon Solar is actively considering a billion dollar investment in large scale solar projects in Australia, but the stability of government climate policy is its major concern
- He said government subsidies were not necessary for the investment decision but policy stability was required.
- Decision on investment will take place in roughly a year.
- In China, where the company is based, Hareon is rapidly developing solar projects on a large scale e.g. 10 km x 10km array
- Would be happy to come to Queensland for further discussions

	Ken Berlin
	CEO, The Climate Reality Project
Dinner with Representatives of Al Gore's Climate Reality Project	Stephen Mills Director of Strategic Partnerships, The Climate Reality Project
	Don Henry Public Policy Fellow - Environmentalism, University of Melbourne

Jim Reeves
Director General, EHP
,
Katharine Wright
Media Advisor, Minister Miles

Meeting Summary:

- Interest on the part of the Americans on GBR
- Debrief on the '24 Hours of Climate Reality' project Minister Miles was supposed to present a portion of the program but it was cancelled due to the Paris attacks
- Discussions of future collaborative projects
- Mr Mills outlined upcoming training opportunities

WEDNESDAY 9 December 2015	
Event	Attendees
	Jim Reeves
	Director General, EHP
Queensland delegation briefing	Katharine Wright
	Media Advisor, Minister Miles
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Meeting summary:	
Daily planning session.	
	Jim Reeves
Meeting with Anne Lauvergeon, Board of Directors,	Director General, EHP
Rio Tinto.	
	Katharine Wright
	Media Advisor, Minister Miles

Meeting summary:

- Discussed Rio Tinto's Amrun project, 40km south of Weipa, which includes construction
 of a mine and port to expand production and extend the life of the company's existing
 Weipa operations.
- Briefing on environmental safeguards, her appreciation of the intersection of industry and associated infrastructure with the environment.
- Possibility of organising another Queensland trip in the new year

	Jim Reeves
Meeting with Tim Flannery, Chief Councillor,	Director General, EHP
Climate Council	Katharine Wright
	Media Advisor, Minister Miles

Meeting summary:

- He expressed his concerns for rising global temperatures particularly in the area of wildlife conservation
- He explained his role at the Australian Wildlife Conservancy and his desire for AWC to be involved in bilby management in Qld

Meeting with Amanda McKenzie, CEO of the Climate	Jim Reeves
Council	Director General, EHP

Katharine Wright Media Advisor, Minister Miles

Meeting summary:

- Ms McKenzie offered her thoughts on how the negotiations were progressing particularly in relation to the potential for a lower target of 1.5C being adopted and whether that then meant the pledges made by the contributing members would be enough to reach that.
- We discussed opportunities for The Climate Council to assist Queensland as we develop our climate strategy.

Anne-Sophie Dornbrack States and Regions Stakeholder Manager Meeting with Libby Ferguson, States and Regions Director, Climate Group Jim Reeves Director General, EHP Katharine Wright Media Advisor, Minister Miles

Meeting summary:

- A debrief of the States and Regions General Assembly on Monday and the signing on the 'Under 2 MOU'
- Discussed support the Alliance can provide, including policy work undertaken by other state governments.

Jim Reeves

	Director General, EHP
	Katharine Wright Media Advisor, Minister Miles
Stakeholder briefing with Australian NGO delegates	Representatives from:
by Minister Miles and Mark Butler, Shadow Minister	WWF
for the Environment, Climate Change and Water	ACF
	AYCC
	TCI
	Climate Council
	Global Voices
	WA Conservation Council
	Climate Action Group reps (SA and Vic)

Meeting summary:

- NGO representatives outlined their positions on a range of matters outstanding in the negotiations, and the status of those negotiations.
- Minister outlined Queensland's participation, and how it fitted with policy development for Queensland
- Mr Butler presented the federal political environment.

Meeting with Mr. Daniele Violetti, Chief of Staff,	Jim Reeves
UNFCCC	Director General, EHP

 General discussion of effectiveness of the conference and update on the progress of the negotiations – trend was heading towards agreement on achieving a below 2 degrees

aspiration.	
	Don Henry
	Public Policy Fellow - Environmentalism,
	University of Melbourne
Meeting with former US Vice-President Al Gore,	,
Chairman of the Climate Reality Project	Jim Reeves
	Director General, EHP
	Katharine Wright
	Media Advisor, Minister Miles

Meeting summary:

- Mr Gore has played a central role in global climate discussions, and he was intimately involved in the negotiations at COP21
- We held a general discussion around climate issues and how sub-nationals could make a difference
- Mr Gore congratulated Queensland on beginning to develop a program for adaptation and mitigation
- He provided his insights on the negotiations huge step change in national engagement
- Discussed the Great Barrier Reef, and Queensland's efforts to protect it

	Peter Castellas CEO, Carbon Market Institute
Event: Spotlight on Australia – Policy, Business & Markets by the Climate Market Institute	Ambassador Peter Woolcott Australian Ambassador to the Environment
,	Jim Reeves Director General, EHP
	Katharine Wright Media Advisor, Minister Miles

Event summary:

- Opening address by Hon Julie Bishop, Minister for Foreign Affairs
- Panel discussion by Mark Butler, Shadow Minister for the Environment, Climate Change and Water and Richard Di Natale, Leader of the Greens
- Panel discussion by Andy Vesey, CEO AGL Energy, Megan Flynn, Group Manager Environment
 & Carbon Strategy, Qantas and Lewis Tyndall, Director of Legal and Compliance, Greencollar

Minister Miles spoke on Panel of subnational governments including:

- Hon Steven Miles, Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection, Queensland
- Hon Ian Hunter, Minister for Climate Change, South Australia
- Kate Wood, Executive Director, Climate Change, Department of Environment, Land, Water & Planning
- Stan Krpan, CEO, Sustainability Victoria
- Councillor Arron Wood, City of Melbourne

Minister ouitlined the opportunities and challenges for Queensland in moving to a net zero carbon

economy.

Travel to Charles de Gaulle Airport for flight to Brisbane departing 9.20pm

THURSDAY 10 December 2015

Travelling (depart Paris, France and travel to Brisbane, Australia via Dubai. Arrive Brisbane 6.45am Friday 11 December 2015.

Estimated costs associated with ministerial travel

Actual costs will be reported in the Public Report of Ministerial Office Expenses.

TOTAL	\$ 23,859.00
Misc - Visas, etc	\$
Interpreter	\$
Transport/Car Hire/ Taxis	\$ 800.00
Equipment Allowance (Staff only)	\$ 286.00
Incidental Allowances	\$ 800.00
Meal Allowances	\$ 2,910.00
Accommodation	\$ 2,800.00
Flights including fees	\$ 16, 263.00