



# MEDIA RELEASE

**Senator the Hon Penny Wong**

*Minister for Climate Change and Water*

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## **AUSTRALIA STRENGTHENS CLIMATE CHANGE COOPERATION WITH NORWAY**

Australia has strengthened its relationship with Norway on climate change with the two countries seeking ways to coordinate efforts to cut global greenhouse gas emissions by reducing deforestation and forest degradation.

Australian Minister for Climate Change and Water, Senator Penny Wong, met the Norwegian Minister for Environment, Erik Solheim, at Parliament House in Canberra today.

Australia and Norway work closely together in international negotiations on climate change through the Umbrella Group, which is a coalition of developed nations that Australia chairs.

Senator Wong said Norway and Australia had a strong and positive dialogue on post 2012 negotiations on climate change and shared the objective of reducing emissions from global deforestation.

“Australia is working to coordinate its efforts with other countries, including Norway, and today's meeting continues the strong spirit of cooperation that we have established on climate change,” Senator Wong said.

“Mr Solheim and I discussed ways our two countries could continue to work together in international negotiations, and through practical action, to reduce global emissions particularly by reducing deforestation.

“Australia and Norway have both made substantial financial commitments to combating global deforestation.

“Through the \$200 million International Forest Carbon Initiative, Australia is working with countries in our region, including Indonesia and Papua New Guinea. The Initiative complements other international efforts including those being undertaken by Norway.

“Throughout this year, Australia will continue to strengthen its cooperation with other countries on climate change. It is a global challenge and the Government is committed to helping shape a global solution.”