

# THE PAPUA NEW GUINEA ELECTRIFICATION PARTNERSHIP

## JOINT STATEMENT

Papua New Guinea has invited Australia, Japan, New Zealand and the United States to work together to support its enhanced connectivity and the goal of connecting 70% of its population to electricity by 2030. Currently only about 13% of Papua New Guinea's population have reliable access to electricity.

Access to electricity is key to Papua New Guinea's economic growth. Electricity lifts the living standards of communities in cities, towns and remote villages. It allows schools and hospitals to deliver essential services. It is also an essential precursor for the growth of the private sector and industry, including small and medium enterprises.

Progress towards Papua New Guinea's ambitious objectives will require large scale investment by both the public and private sectors. This includes investment in new generation capacity as well as transmission and distribution lines to connect households, service providers and businesses to the grid. Continued efforts to improve institutional and regulatory frameworks are also required in order to unlock private investment.

Papua New Guinea, Australia, Japan, New Zealand and the United States intend to join together in a Papua New Guinea Electrification Partnership in support of Papua New Guinea's objectives for electrification. This high level partnership forms part of the enduring economic and security partnership between our countries. This initiative will also be open to other partners that support principles and values which help maintain and promote a free, open, prosperous and rules based region.

The Papua New Guinea Electrification Partnership is intended to focus on the importance of principles-based, sustainable infrastructure development that is transparent, non-discriminatory, environmentally responsible, promotes fair and open competition, upholds robust standards, meets the genuine needs of the people of Papua New Guinea and avoids unsustainable debt burdens. It is intended to adopt a strong focus on investments that provide employment and training opportunities for local contractors and communities. It is also intended to focus not only on delivering high impact investments but ensuring improved coordination and governance within the energy sector.

Importantly, this initiative represents a true partnership between Papua New Guinea and its key partners to drive growth and development for communities throughout Papua New Guinea. The partnership is intended to be delivered in alignment with Papua New Guinea's own plans and priorities and implemented in close conjunction with PNG Power Limited.

The Prime Ministers of Papua New Guinea (O'Neill), Australia (Morrison), Japan (Abe), New Zealand (Ardern) and the Vice President of the United States (Pence) hereby sign this Joint Statement to mark the announcement of this new multi-country initiative at APEC House. The announcement signals a strong commitment from these countries to supporting growth enabling investment in key economic infrastructure in Papua New Guinea.

Signed in Port Moresby on this 18th day of November 2018

For the Government of Australia

For the Government of Japan

For the Government of New Zealand

For the Government of Papua New Guinea

For the Government of the United States

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Scott Morrison,  
Prime Minister of Australia

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Shinzo Abe,  
Prime Minister of Japan

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Jacinda Ardern,  
Prime Minister of New Zealand

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Peter O'Neill,  
Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea

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Michael Pence,  
Vice President of the United States