



**A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN**

**THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT
PROGRAMME**

AND

**THE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION
AUTHORITY, VICTORIA, AUSTRALIA**

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Background

1. In 1992, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) established its Finance Initiatives to promote sustainable development and environmentally sound business practices across the financial services sector.
2. Under these Finance Initiatives, UNEP runs a number of activities including holding an annual international Roundtable, holding occasional regional outreach meetings, distributing a regular newsletter and so on.
3. In February 2000, the Environment Protection Authority of Victoria, Australia (EPA Victoria) hosted the first ever UNEP Finance Initiatives Conference to be held in Australia.
4. The Conference was a significant success and a major joint accomplishment by UNEP and EPA Victoria.
5. The aim of this Memorandum of Understanding is to build on this success and ensure continued promotion of the UNEP Finance Initiatives in Australasia (Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea).

Activities in Australasia

6. Under this Memorandum of Understanding, EPA Victoria will promote the UNEP Finance Initiatives in Australasia on behalf of UNEP.
7. EPA Victoria will co-ordinate all activities to be held in Australasia under the UNEP Finance Initiatives. This will include, but not be restricted to:
 - Distributing UNEP Finance Initiatives material in Australasia, including the Initiatives newsletter
 - Co-ordinating the contribution of articles from Australasia for the UNEP Finance Initiatives newsletter and other publications
 - Holding meetings, seminars and conferences in Australasia on behalf of the UNEP Finance Initiatives
 - Establishing and chairing Australasian advisory committees on environmental issues in the financial services sector on behalf of the UNEP Finance Initiatives

- Reporting to and involving other levels of Government in Australasia on the UNEP Finance Initiatives
 - Encouraging Australasian financial institutions to become signatories to the UNEP Finance Initiatives
 - Any other actions to promote the UNEP Finance Initiatives in Australasia
8. In carrying out the roles listed in point 8, EPA Victoria will regularly liaise with the co-ordinator of the UNEP Finance Initiatives.
9. EPA Victoria will keep the co-ordinator of the UNEP Finance Initiatives informed of relevant developments in the Australasian financial services sector.

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Signed on 16th of November 2000.