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Press release

## PM call with Prime Minister of Australia: 27 October 2020

Prime Minister Boris Johnson spoke with Prime Minister Scott Morrison of Australia.

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From:

Prime Minister's Office, 10 Downing Street (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/prime-ministers-office-10-downing-street>) and The Rt Hon Boris Johnson MP (<https://www.gov.uk/government/people/boris-johnson>)



The Prime Minister spoke to Australia's Prime Minister Scott Morrison this morning.

Building on the long-standing friendship and partnership between the UK and Australia, the leaders welcomed progress on a Free Trade Agreement and resolved to work at pace to secure a mutually beneficial deal.

They agreed on the importance of like-minded states working together to tackle global issues, including building open societies, strengthening democratic values and boosting free and fair trade.

The Prime Minister also stressed that we need bold action to address climate change, noting that the UK's experience demonstrates that driving economic growth and reducing emissions can go hand-in-hand.

Looking ahead to the Climate Ambition Summit on 12 December and COP26 in Glasgow next year, he emphasised the importance of setting ambitious targets to cut emissions and reach Net Zero.

They agreed to intensify the partnership between the UK and Australia on developing and scaling up green technologies.

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The PM had a warm discussion with PM Johnson last night.

They discussed responding to the COVID-19 challenge, in particular opening their economies safely.

Ms Morrison and Johnson agreed on the critical importance of likeminded countries working much more closely together – bilaterally, in other groupings and multilaterally - in the face of sharper geostrategic competition and a more uncertain strategic environment.

The PMs agreed on the need to conclude negotiations on a UK-Australia FTA that was comprehensive and ambitious.

They also discussed increasing cooperation on multilateral candidacies.

PM Johnson welcomed our significant increase in emissions reduction programs announced through the Budget, and strongly endorsed our focus on unlocking practical pathways to reducing emissions.

Both countries agreed to work closely together to accelerate research and deployment of low-emission technologies ahead of COP26.