

Outcomes

Climate Change Authority Meeting

20 June 2023



Preamble

The Climate Change Authority met on Tuesday 20 June for the fourth meeting of 2023. The meeting commenced with a delivery of the Acknowledgement of Country in the Kurna language, followed by standard deliberations relating to administrative matters and handling of potential conflicts of interest. Members raised no potential conflicts of interest in relation to the matters to be discussed in the meeting.

The meeting consisted of status updates to members on the secretariat's work on the advice on the 2035 emissions reduction target and development of sectoral transition and emissions pathways, on the 2023 Annual Progress Report to inform the 2023 Annual Climate Change Statement and the 2023 legislated review of the *National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007*.

Representatives of the Superpower Institute attended for part of the meeting to provide a guest presentation, introducing the organisation and the work they are currently undertaking on methane measurement, reporting and verification.

Summary

Advice on the 2035 emissions reduction target

The Authority is anticipating formal tasking from the Minister for Climate Change and Energy (the Minister) requesting the Authority provide the Government with advice on targets for Australia's next Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). The Authority is also likely to receive tasking by the Parliament to prepare advice on the development of sectoral transition and emissions pathways, as agreed for the passage of the Safeguard Amendments.

The Authority anticipates these requests will be received shortly and has thus commenced planning and consulting on this work.

Members discussed potential project timelines and handling of submissions to the Issues Paper – *Setting, tracking and measuring Australia's emissions reduction targets* – which was launched 18 May 2023 with consultation closing 30 June 2023.

2023 Annual Progress Report

Members noted the impact of the latest quarterly release on Australia's emissions budget position and progress toward the 2030-point target.

The quarterly report shows that Australia is 25 per cent through the Paris Agreement period and has used 27 per cent of the emissions budget.

Members noted the decline in emissions in the year to December 2022 of 2 Mt¹ was much less than the average of 17 Mt needed per year to meet Australia's 2030 and 2050 targets, as reported in the Authority's 2022 Annual Progress Report.

Discussions continued on the 2023 Annual Progress Report, including the Authority's Issues Paper. The Authority has received interest from a wide range of stakeholders on the questions raised in the Issues Paper and is keenly anticipating stakeholder responses.

2023 National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (NGER) Act Review

Members discussed the areas of focus for the 2023 review including coverage, estimation methods, transparency of data, confidentiality, and administration. Members are also aware that a specific focus of the 2023 review is the measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) of methane emissions through the NGER scheme.

¹ Source: *National Greenhouse Gas Inventory Quarterly Update: December 2022*.

- The consultation for the Review has commenced and will continue to October 2023. The review report is due to be tabled in both Houses of Parliament by 31 December 2023.

The Superpower Institute presentation

Representatives of the recently established Superpower Institute gave Authority members a presentation introducing their work, including their methane detection and measurement tool, OpenMethane.

Members considered the functionality available to enable the measurement of Australian’s methane emissions and the potential for future technological improvements and enhancements.

More information on the Superpower Institute can be found on its [website](#).

Attendees

Mr Grant King	Chair
Professor Lesley Hughes	Member
Dr Russell Reichelt AO	Member
Mr Mark Lewis	Member
Ms Susie Smith	Member
Dr Virginia Marshall	Member
Ms Sam Mostyn AO	Member
Dr Cathy Foley AO PSM FAA FTSE	Member (Ex-officio)

Apologies

Mr John McGee	Member
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Secretariat

Mr Brad Archer	Chief Executive Officer
Ms Joanna Irving	Acting General Manager, Strategy Branch
Dr Matt Searson	Acting General Manager, Analysis Branch
Ms Claudia Papandrea	Manager, Outreach and Engagement team (minute taker)
Ms Jessica Keenan	Team Leader, Business Support Unit (minute taker)