

Outcomes

Climate Change Authority Meeting 6 February 2024



Preamble

The Climate Change Authority met on 6 February for its first meeting of 2024. The meeting commenced with CEO Mr Brad Archer noting the Chair Mr Grant King would be absent for parts of the meeting in the morning. The members present appointed Ms Sam Mostyn to preside over the meeting until Mr King's arrival. This was followed by a delivery of the Acknowledgement of Country in language by Dr Virginia Marshall, and standard deliberations relating to administrative matters and handling and declarations of potential conflicts of interest.

Mr Archer delivered the CEO's report, focusing on release of the 2023 Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCU) Scheme Review and the 2023 Review of the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (NGER) Act 2007, and the authority's strategy for First Nations engagement and related activities.

Authority members received presentations by executives from the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water on Australia's official 2023 emissions projections, and on outcomes from meeting 28 of the Conference of the Parties (COP28) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The remainder of the agenda consisted of updates on the sectoral technology and emissions pathways review, development of a consultation paper for the pathways review and the authority's 2035 targets advice, and a communications and engagement implementation plan for 2024, and process for formalising the authority's internal performance review.

Summary

Sectoral Pathways Review

Members discussed an update on the progress of the sectoral pathways review, as well as the project methodology, low and zero emissions technologies for expert and stakeholder consultation and communications content for the launch of the project on the authority's website. The review is due to be delivered to the Minister by 1 August 2024.

Pathways and Targets: Interim Paper

Members discussed the first draft of the authority's proposed interim paper for the sectoral pathways review and its 2035 targets advice. The interim paper aims to build understanding of and facilitate consultation on the authority's approach and direction for these projects, and identify areas for further work. Members agreed to the timeline for release of the interim paper, currently scheduled for April 2024.

Communications and Engagement Implementation Plan

Members discussed a draft implementation plan which aims to coordinate scoping, resourcing, scheduling and delivery of the engagement and communication activities for the authority's 2024 work program. Members also discussed the list of priority cohort groups for engagement and the authority's proposed approach for engagement with these groups, which will be undertaken in collaboration with other relevant government agencies.

Annual Performance Review

Discussion focused on a draft annual performance review questionnaire, which members will be invited to complete as part of their annual review of collective performance. Members agreed on the final form of the questionnaire, which is to be completed to inform a discussion at the March authority meeting.

Other business

Members reviewed the schedule of authority meetings for 2024 and asked the secretariat to provide members with a revised date for the April meeting for consideration out of session.

Members acknowledged that the appointment terms for Dr Russell Reichelt AO and Mr Mark Lewis will end before the next authority meeting and this is likely their last meeting. Members and the secretariat expressed their appreciation and gratitude for the contributions Dr Reichelt and Mr Lewis have made to the authority over the past five years.

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
Mr John McGee	Member
Dr Cathy Foley AO PSM FAA FTSE	Member (Ex-officio)

* *Excused for a portion of the meeting*

* *Appointed by members to preside over meeting in the Chair's absence*

Apologies

NIL

Secretariat

Mr Brad Archer	Chief Executive Officer
Ms Eliza Murray	General Manager, Strategy Branch
Dr Matt Searson	Acting General Manager, Analysis Branch
Mr Tim Banks*	General Counsel
Secretariat Staff	Minute takers

* *Partial attendance*