

Outcomes

Climate Change Authority Meeting

11 February 2026

Preamble

The Climate Change Authority met on 11 February for its first meeting of 2026. The meeting commenced with an Acknowledgement of Country, delivered by the Chair, and standard deliberations relating to administrative matters, including declaration and handling of potential conflicts of interest and the CEO's report.

Several members provided updates to their notified interests. Members did not identify any items in the agenda that necessitated any member to be excluded from the meeting due to declared interests. Members reiterated the importance of a vigilant and thorough approach to management of member interests, including to retain public trust in the Authority's work. Members noted they bring extensive expertise and standing in relevant fields – this is the basis of their appointment by the Minister, and underpins their capacity to provide expert advice. Members acknowledged that their backgrounds also carry the potential for conflicts of interest to arise. Members noted their outside interests are disclosed in accordance with legislation and associated Authority processes, and potential conflicts are subject to active and ongoing management.

Summary

Strategic outlook and work plan

Members discussed the strategic landscape for the 2026 work program, noting the need to focus on policy levers that will accelerate progress toward the 2035 target. Members agreed sector-specific measures will often deliver more timely and enduring emissions reductions than broad economy-wide mechanisms.

Australian Carbon Credit Unit (ACCU) Scheme Review

Members discussed priorities for the Authority's 2026 ACCU Scheme Review, including responding to stakeholder feedback, clarifying the scheme's role alongside the Safeguard Mechanism, and strengthening confidence and signals to support a stable market for high-integrity ACCUs. Members agreed to ongoing briefings and engagement.

Evidence Platform for Real Progress

Members discussed the Evidence Platform project, noting its value will come from monitoring leading indicators of real-world progress towards Australia's national emissions targets and a prosperous, resilient transition to net zero. Members supported the use of both quantitative and qualitative metrics, recognising that areas such as adaptation, resilience, and community acceptance may require qualitative monitoring approaches. Members endorsed a phased, pragmatic build-out of the platform that will directly inform and strengthen the Authority's annual progress advice.

COP31 Decarbonisation Deals

Members noted the 31st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP31) concept note on Decarbonisation Deals and agreed it provides a solid foundation for

communicating the value and feasibility of such deals. Members agreed to provide final comments to the secretariat ahead of publication.

Stakeholder engagement discussion

Members discussed development of a new Stakeholder Engagement Strategy. Members noted that the new strategy should reflect the Authority's role countering misinformation and disinformation. Members noted the importance of understanding our unique role, alongside the work of existing organisations engaging the community on climate change matters.

Attendees

Mr Matt Kean*	Chair
Professor Tony Haymet*	Member (Ex-officio)
Professor Lesley Hughes	Member
Ms Fiona Simson	Member
Mr Richard Bolt	Member
Mr Tim Reed	Member
Ms Gretta Stephens	Member

Apologies

Dr Virginia Marshall	Member
Ms Patty Akopiantz	Member

Secretariat

Ms Kath Rowley	Chief Executive Officer
Ms Eliza Murray	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Mr Tim Banks	General Counsel
Mr Jed Buffier	Acting General Manager, Analysis Branch
Ms Weilin Chiu	Acting General Manager, Systems and Science Branch
Ms Mia Swainson	General Manager, Outreach and Enabling Branch
Secretariat advisors and note takers	

*Partial attendance