

Methane in Australia's climate policies

Lesley Hughes

Member, Climate Change Authority

June 2026

The Climate Change Authority is an independent advisory agency



We provide expert advice to the Australian Government on climate change policy



Annual advice to inform the Government's Annual Climate Change Statement to Parliament



Every 3 years – Review the *Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Act 2011* (**Australian Carbon Credit Unit Scheme**)



Every 5 years - Advise on **emissions reduction targets** for Australia's nationally determined contributions to the Paris Agreement



Every 5 years – Review the *National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007* (**NGER reporting and the Safeguard Mechanism**)



Self-initiated independent research and analysis



Other matters as requested by the Minister or Parliament

The Climate Change Authority has broad skills and expertise



The Authority comprises nine members including a Chair and Australia's Chief Scientist, supported by a secretariat

The Authority and secretariat have skills and expertise across a range of scientific, engineering, business, agriculture and social science backgrounds

Climate Change Authority Chair – the Hon. Matt Kean

Members:

Dr. Virginia Marshall

Prof. Lesley Hughes

Ms. Fiona Simson

Mr. Richard Bolt

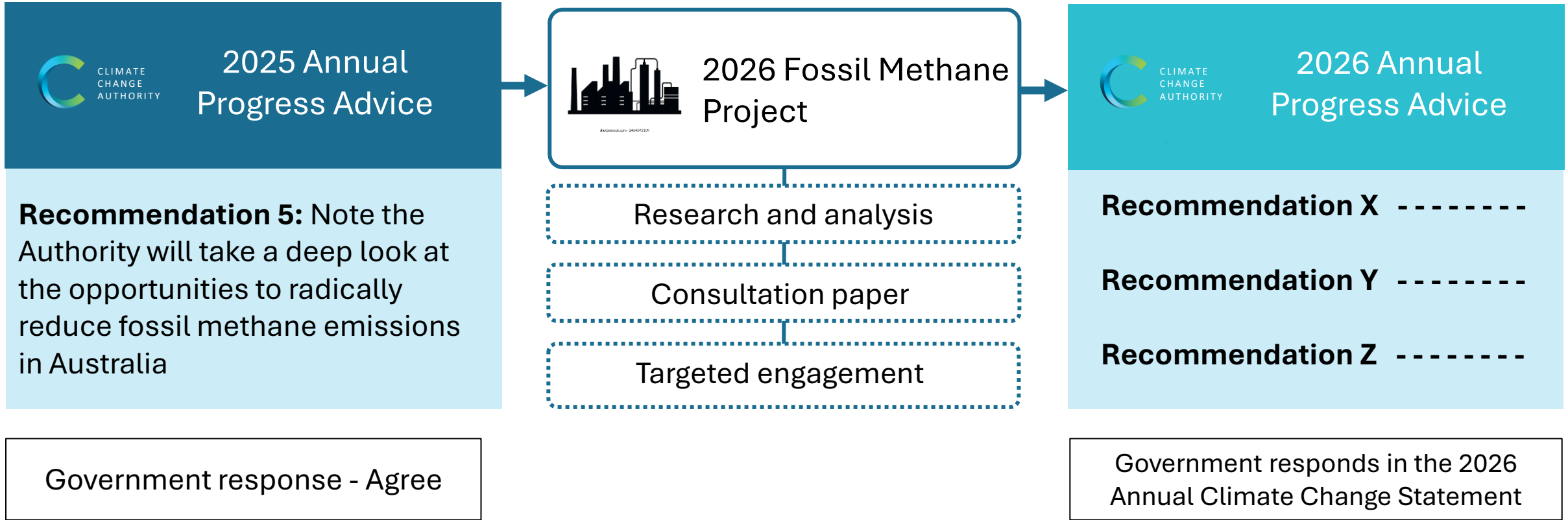
Ms. Patty Akopiantz

Ms. Gretta Stephens

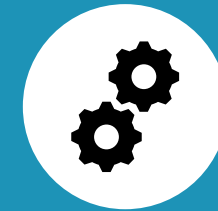
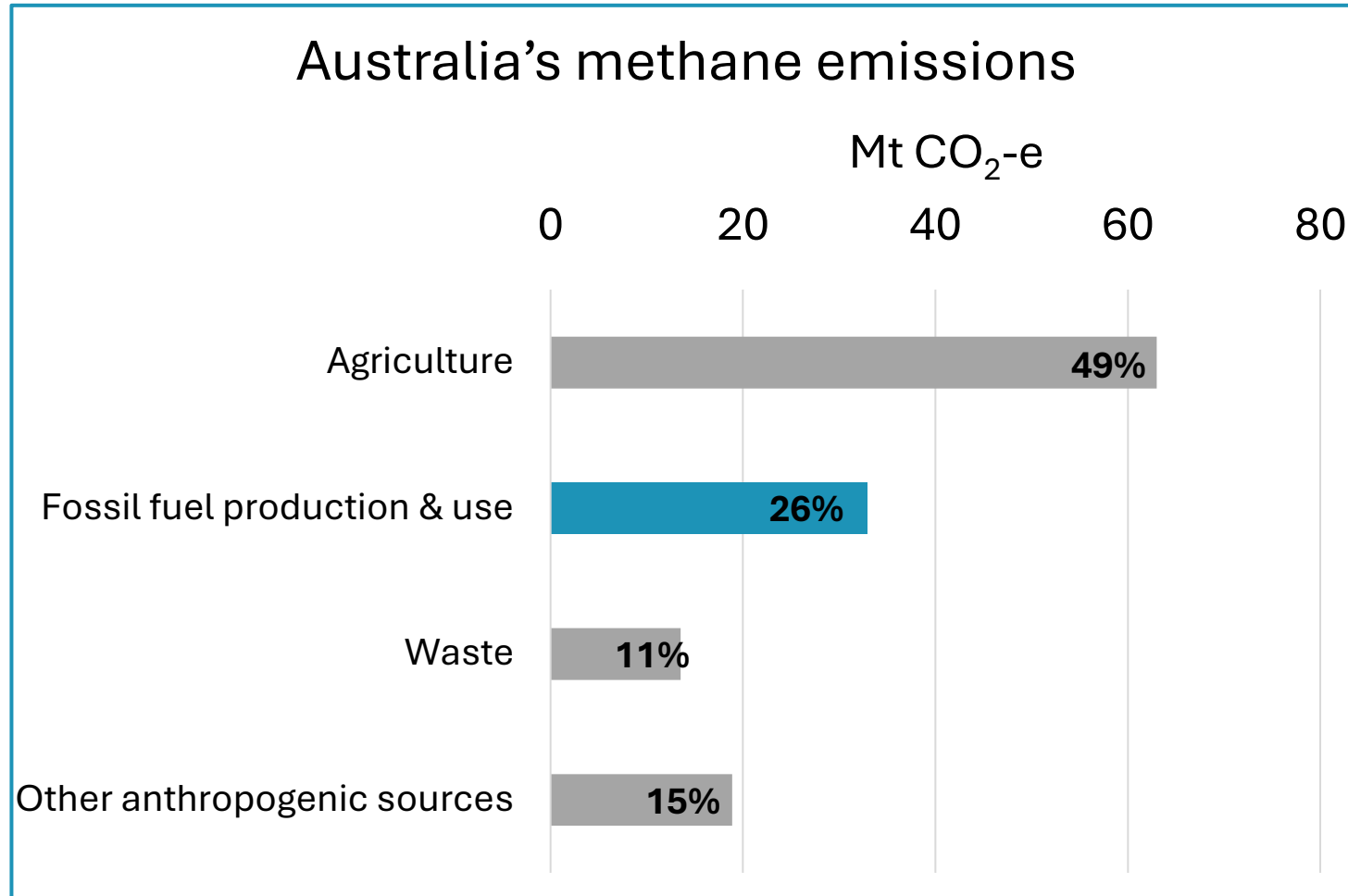
Mr. Tim Reed

Prof. Tony Haymet (Chief Scientist, *ex officio*)

The Authority's fossil methane project



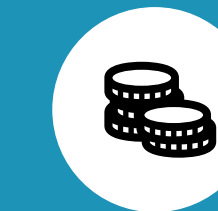
Why focus on fossil methane?



Existing technologies



Lower cost of abatement




Fewer emissions sources

Existing policies already drive some fossil methane abatement – Commonwealth

Home > Schemes > National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Scheme

National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Scheme

Last updated 27 February 2026



National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (Safeguard Mechanism) Rule 2015

made under section 22XS of the
National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007

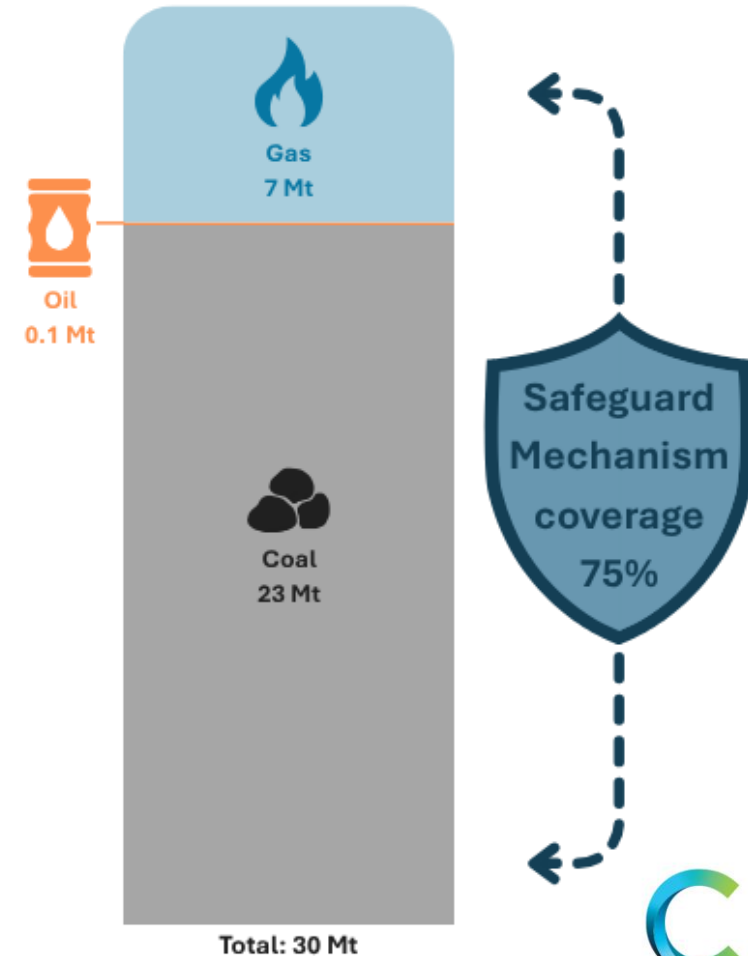
Compilation No. 13

Compilation date: 31 August 2024

Includes amendments: *National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Legislation Amendment (Best Practice Emissions Intensities Update) Instrument 2024 (F2024L01063)*

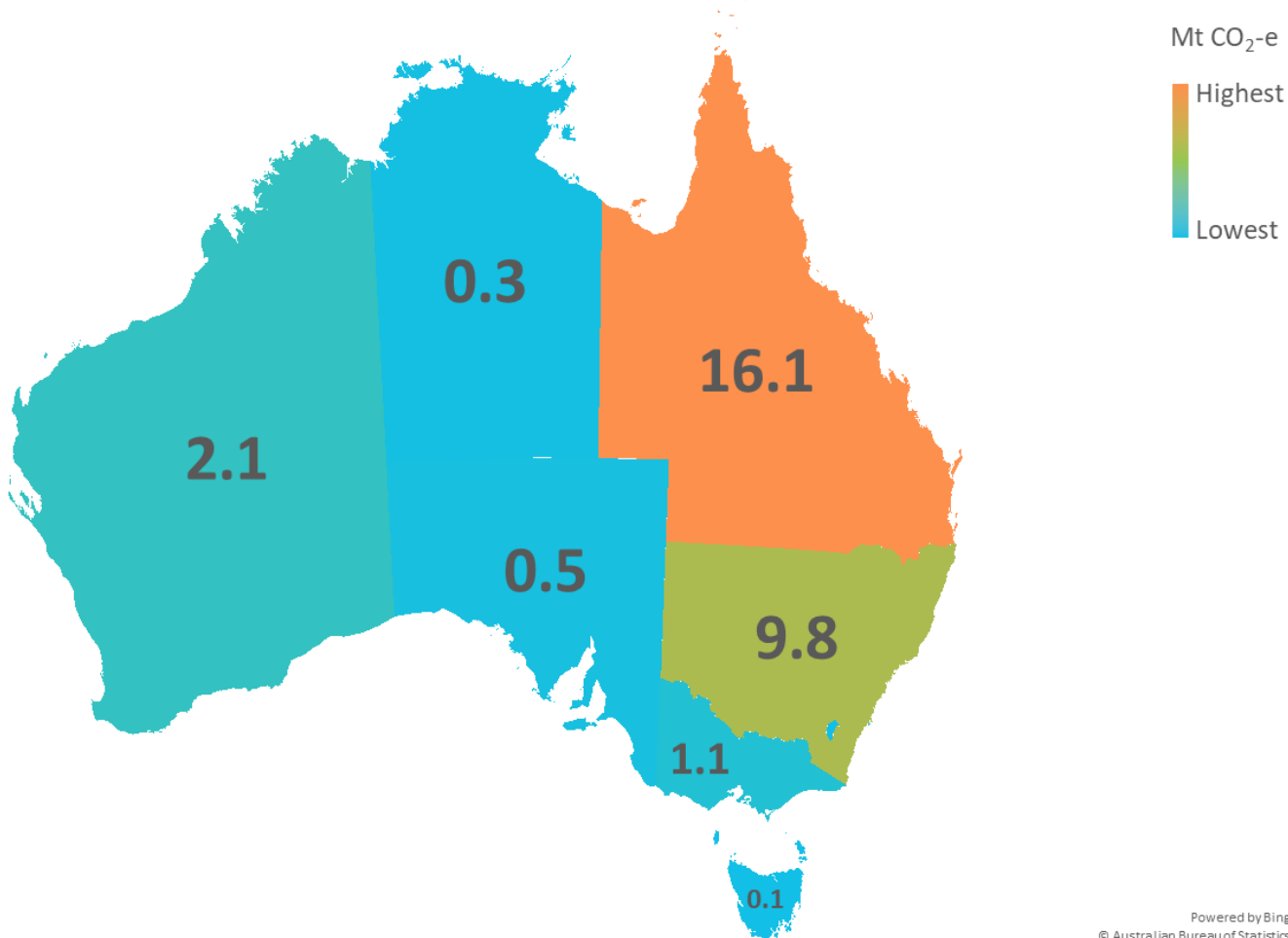
GWP-100 basis

Australia's fossil methane emissions (Mt CO₂-e)

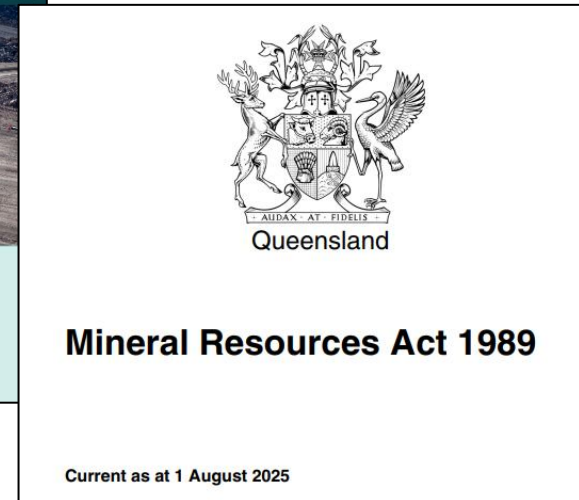


Existing policies already drive some fossil methane abatement – States and territories

Fossil methane emissions by state



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What we want your input on:

Abatement opportunities

What technologies and practices are ready now, or close to viable?

Barriers to faster uptake

What is stopping more methane abatement, and what would help?

Policy and regulation

The Safeguard and some state regulations already drive some abatement – what more is needed, where, and why?

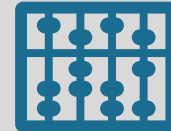
Methane's near-term climate value

Should policy or investment decisions give more weight to methane's near-term climate benefits? If so, how?

How the Authority will assess policy options



Environmental
effectiveness



Equity



Cost
effectiveness



Simplicity and
feasibility

We want to hear from you

We will publish a consultation paper shortly to seek your feedback



Contact us: consultation@cca.gov.au

More information: www.cca.gov.au