

Outcomes

Climate Change Authority Meeting

4 August 2026

Preamble

The Climate Change Authority held a full day meeting on 4 August 2026. This followed an interim meeting on 7 July 2026 focusing on the draft ACCU Scheme Review report.

Both meetings commenced with an Acknowledgement of Country and standard deliberations relating to administrative matters, including declaration and handling of potential conflicts of interest. Members provided updates to their notified interests for recording on the Authority's standing register of material personal interests.

At the 7 July meeting, quorum requirements were not met so no formal decisions were made, and members provided feedback only on the draft ACCU Scheme Review report. At the 4 August meeting, members considered declared interests potentially relevant to the ACCU Scheme Review, Safeguard Mechanism modelling and Annual Progress Advice. Mr Kean and Ms Akopiantz were excused while handling determinations were made. Members determined they would not participate in final approval decisions on the ACCU Scheme Review recommendations at the meeting and, unless otherwise determined in future they would not participate in final approval decisions on Annual Progress Advice recommendations related to the Safeguard Mechanism, but they could be involved in all discussions for these projects.

Summary of the 7 July meeting

Members provided feedback on the draft 2026 ACCU Scheme Review report. Members provided feedback on the report's overall framing, including the role of the ACCU Scheme within the broader policy mix and its interaction with the Safeguard Mechanism. Members noted the report was progressing well and provided a strong basis for formal consideration at the August meeting.

Summary of the 4 August meeting

ACCU Scheme Review

Members considered the final ACCU Scheme Review report. Members discussed the scope and framing of the review, including scheme integrity, permanence, transparency, public benefits, land-use themes and future method development.

Members agreed the recommendations in the report, subject to minor drafting refinements, and agreed the report be finalised and submitted to the Minister by the end of August 2026. Members also discussed release arrangements and associated communication, market and probity considerations.

Safeguard Mechanism modelling

Members considered the EY Parthenon Strategies modelling, which will be an input to the Authority's advice on the future operation of the Safeguard Mechanism. The modelling examined post-2030 baseline decline rates, onsite abatement, use of credits and methane-related policy treatments.

Annual Progress Advice

Members discussed development of the 2026 Annual Progress Advice. Members provided feedback on potential recommendations and in-text advice, including on the Safeguard Mechanism, onsite abatement, fossil methane, transport, energy and land-use issues.

Members noted revised recommendations and in-text advice will be brought back following public consultation and targeted stakeholder engagement.

COP31 and decarbonisation deals

Members discussed the Authority's proposed engagement at COP31, including on decarbonisation deals and activities with the International Climate Councils Network. Members encouraged further development of practical examples of possible decarbonisation deals, including low-emissions trade and supply-chain opportunities.

Misinformation insights paper

Members considered the Misinformation insights paper and the commissioned audience insights literature review (89 Degrees). Members agreed to publish both documents on the Authority's website.

Attendees – 7 July 2026

Mr Matt Kean	Chair
Professor Lesley Hughes	Member
Mr Richard Bolt	Member
Mr Tim Reed	Member
Ms Gretta Theobald Stephens	Member

Apologies

Ms Fiona Simson	Member
Dr Virginia Marshall	Member
Ms Patty Akopiantz	Member
Professor Tony Haymet	Member (Ex-officio)

Secretariat

Ms Kath Rowley	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

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Professor Lesley Hughes*	Member
Professor Tony Haymet	Member (Ex-officio)
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Mr Richard Bolt	Member
Mr Tim Reed	Member
Ms Fiona Simson	Member
Dr Virginia Marshall*	Member

Apologies

Ms Gretta Theobald Stephens	Member
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Secretariat

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Ms Eliza Murray	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
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