PARLIAMENT OF AUSTRALIA

2026–27 Budget estimates

Environment and Communications Legislation Committee

Monday 25 May to Thursday 28 May 2026

Committee Room 2S3, Parliament House, Canberra

Times listed are indicative only

Hearing location

Committee Room 2S3, Parliament House, Canberra
Waiting room: Committee Room 1S4

Broadcasts of proceedings

Television channel 111
Radio 91.1
https://www.aph.gov.au/News_and_Events/Watch_Read_Listen

Contact

ec.sen@aph.gov.au
02 6277 3526

Committee rooms

Committee Room 2S3: (02) 6277 5853
Committee Room 1S4: (02) 6277 5847

Questions on notice

Questions from Senators due: 5 June 2026

Answers from Departments due: 17 July 2026

Committee members

Senator Varun Ghosh, Chair
Senator Sarah Hanson-Young, Deputy Chair
Senator Michelle Ananda-Rajah
Senator the Hon Sarah Henderson
Senator Dean Smith
Senator Charlotte Walker

Ministers attending

Senator the Hon Murray Watt
Senator the Hon Tim Ayres
Senator the Hon Nita Green

Secretariat

Tas Larnach, Committee Secretary
James Blair, Estimates Officer

Monday, 25 May

Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Time	AGENCY
9.00am **(105 min)**	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water Corporate matters and general questions
10.45am **(15 min)**	Morning tea
11.00am **(90 min)**	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water **Outcome 2: Conserve, protect and sustainably manage our natural resources; protect and conserve our natural and cultural heritage; reduce and regulate the use of pollutants and hazardous substances; and take a leadership role on these issues internationally.** Program 2.1: Conserve, protect, sustainably manage and restore Australia's natural environment
12.30pm **(45 min)**	Lunch
1.15pm **(60 min)**	**Outcome 2: Continued** Program 2.2: Protect Australia's cultural, historic and First Nations heritage
2.15pm **(60 min)**	**Outcome 2: Continued** Program 2.3: Accelerate the transition to a circular economy, while safely managing pollutants and hazardous substances. **Office of the Supervising Scientist**
3.15pm **(30 min)**	Director of National Parks
3.45pm **(15 min)**	Afternoon tea
4.00pm **(30 min)**	Sydney Harbour Federation Trust
4.30pm **(30 min)**	Threatened Species Scientific Committee

5.00pm **(60 min)**	Inspector-General of Water Compliance
6.00pm **(45 min)**	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water **Outcome 4: Improve the health of rivers and wetlands and enhance the sustainable, efficient and productive use of Australia's water resources.** Program 4.1 - Protect, restore and sustainably manage Australia's water resources, including: **Environmental Water & Aquatic Ecosystems Division as represented by the** **Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder** **Murray-Darling Basin Authority** **National Water Grid Authority**
6.45pm **(45 min)**	Dinner
7.30pm **(45 min)**	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water **Outcome 4: Improve the health of rivers and wetlands and enhance the sustainable, efficient and productive use of Australia's water resources.** Program 4.1 - Protect, restore and sustainably manage Australia's water resources, including: **Environmental Water & Aquatic Ecosystems Division as represented by the** **Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder** **Murray-Darling Basin Authority** **National Water Grid Authority**
8.15pm **(30 min)**	Australian Institute of Marine Science
8.45pm **(15 min)**	Evening tea
9.00pm **(30 min)**	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
9.30pm **(60 min)**	Bureau of Meteorology **Australian Climate Service**
10.30pm **(30 min)**	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water **Outcome 3: Advance Australia's environmental, scientific, strategic and economic interests in the Antarctic region by protecting, researching and administering in the region, including through international engagement.** Program 3.1: Contribute to Australia's national Antarctic interests through science, environmental management and international engagement, including delivering Australia's scientific research and operations in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean
11.00pm	Adjournment

Tuesday, 26 May

Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

Time	AGENCY
9.00am **(105 min)**	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water **Outcome 1: Maintain a secure, reliable and affordable energy system; support the transition of Australia's economy to net zero emissions by 2050; support actions to promote adaptation and strengthen resilience of Australia's economy, society and environment; and take a leadership role internationally in responding to climate change.** Program 1.2: Reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions
10.45am **(15 min)**	Morning tea
11.00am **(90 min)**	**Outcome 1: Continued** Program 1.1: Support reliable, secure and affordable energy
12.30pm **(45 min)**	Lunch
1.15pm **(45 min)**	Australian Renewable Energy Agency
2.00pm **(60 min)**	Snowy Hydro Limited
3.00pm **(60min)**	Climate Change Authority
4.00pm **(15 min)**	Afternoon tea
4.15pm **(60min)**	Climate Change Authority (continued)
5.15pm **(60 min)**	Australian Energy Regulator
6.15pm **(60min)**	Dinner
7.15pm **(60 min)**	Clean Energy Finance Corporation

8.15pm (30 min)	Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner
8.45pm (15 min)	Evening tea
9.00pm (30 min)	Emission Reduction Assurance Committee
9.30pm (90 min)	Clean Energy Regulator
11.00pm	Adjournment

Wednesday, 27 May

Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts, excluding Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development

TIME	AGENCY
9.00am **(105 min)**	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts Corporate matters and general questions
10.45am	Morning tea
11.00am **(105 min)**	**Outcome 5: Promote an innovative and competitive communications sector, through policy development, advice and program delivery, so all Australians can realise the full potential of digital technologies and communications services.** Program 5.1 – Digital Technologies and Communications Services **Closing the Gap Outcome 17: Digital Inclusion**
12.30pm **(45 min)**	Lunch
1.15pm **(120 min)**	Australian Communications and Media Authority
3.15pm **(30 min)**	Office of the eSafety Commissioner
3.45pm **(15 min)**	Afternoon tea
4.00pm **(120 min)**	Office of the eSafety Commissioner (continued)
6.00pm **(60 min)**	Dinner
7.00pm **(105 min)**	Australia Post
8.45pm **(15 min)**	Evening tea

9.00pm **(120 min)**	NBN Co Limited
11.00pm	Adjournment

Thursday, 28 May

Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts, excluding Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development

TIME	AGENCY
9.00am **(120 min)**	Australian Broadcasting Corporation
11.00am **(15 min)**	Morning tea
11.15pm **(90 min)**	Special Broadcasting Service
12.45pm **(45 min)**	Lunch
1.30pm **(120 min)**	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts **Outcome 6: Participation in, and access to, Australia's arts and culture through developing and supporting cultural expression** Program 6.1 – Arts and Cultural Development **Office for the Arts** **Closing the Gap Outcome 16: First Nations Languages**
3.30pm **(15 min)**	Afternoon tea
3.45pm **(90 min)**	Creative Australia
5.15pm **(45 min)**	Screen Australia
6.00pm **(60 min)**	Dinner
7.00pm **(30 min)**	National Gallery of Australia

7.30pm **(30 min)**	National Archives of Australia
8.00pm **(45 min)**	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts **Outcome 7: Contribute to healthy, active communities and a sustainable sport system through policy development, coordination and targeted support.** Program 7.1: Sport and Physical Activity
8.45pm **(15 min)**	Evening tea
9.00pm **(60 min)**	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications, Sport and the Arts (continued) **Outcome 7: Contribute to healthy, active communities and a sustainable sport system through policy development, coordination and targeted support.** Program 7.1: Sport and Physical Activity
10.00pm **(60 min)**	Australian Sports Commission (Australian Institute of Sport)
11.00pm	Adjournment