



Senator Varun Ghosh  
Chair  
Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

by email: [ec.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:ec.sen@aph.gov.au)

Dear Senator Ghosh

### **Tabling of further information - 2025-26 Supplementary budget estimates hearings**

At the Climate Change Authority's appearance before your committee on 1 December 2025, the Authority's Chair, the Hon. Matt Kean, stated in response to questions from Senator Sarah Henderson that he would table certain documents relating to the Authority's handling of his private interests. This letter supplies those documents along with an explanation of the Authority's relevant processes to provide context for the benefit of the committee.

#### *Procedures for disclosure and management of material personal interests*

Members are appointed by the responsible Minister based on their knowledge and expertise in areas relevant to the Authority's work. It is therefore expected that members could have outside interests in those areas. Mr Kean's employment by Wollemi Capital is handled in accordance with the Authority's standard disclosure and meeting management procedures. These procedures implement member duties contained in the *Climate Change Authority Act 2011, Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* and *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014* (PGPA Rule).

The *Authority Charter* documents members' agreed procedures to discharge their statutory duties and ensure the integrity of Authority processes, including in relation to member interests. As set out in charter, all Authority meetings begin with members providing updates to their declared outside roles and interests. Any disclosed material personal interests that may be relevant to the affairs of the Authority are recorded in the Authority's Standing Register of Members' Disclosed Material Personal Interests and the Standing Notice of Members' Interests. The charter and notice are published on the Authority's website for public transparency purposes.

This update process is followed by consideration of whether any declared interests relate to matters to be considered at the Authority meeting in question. Under the PGPA Rule, a member is not permitted to be involved in discussions and decisions relating to a matter in which they have declared a material personal interest, unless the other members determine otherwise. A determination about a member's involvement must occur in the absence of that member. The declaration and determination processes during meetings are supported by oral advice to members from the Authority's CEO and General Counsel and recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

The Minister is advised of any updates to members' material personal interests, as required under the Climate Change Authority Act. These updates are provided periodically if and when new material personal interests arise or previously declared interests change.



*Application of procedures to Chair's interests*

Compliance with the abovementioned procedures ensures that Mr Kean's role with Wollemi does not come into conflict with the proper performance of his duties as Chair of the Authority – helping fulfil his legislative obligations as well as protecting the integrity of the Authority's decision-making and its reputation.

On 23 July 2024 the Authority's CEO, Mr Brad Archer, provided to Mr Kean in advance of his first Authority meeting a copy of the *Authority Charter*, to advise him of the agreed procedures, including in relation to managing private interests. Mr Kean's prospective role with Wollemi was also discussed in correspondence between the Authority and the portfolio department. On 7 August 2024, on request from Mr Kean, Mr Archer provided advice about management of external interests. This preliminary email correspondence is at **Attachment A**.

At his first Authority meeting on 13 August 2024, Mr Kean disclosed to the other members his upcoming employment at Wollemi as its Director, Regulatory Affairs and Strategic Partnerships at Wollemi Capital. This is shown in the enclosed excerpt of the minutes from the meeting, along with the Standing Register of Members' Declared Material Personal Interests for that meeting - see **Attachment B**.

Mr Kean's employment with Wollemi took effect on 15 August 2024. Following this, Mr Kean provided additional information to the Authority secretariat about Wollemi's specific investments and his role in relation to them, to further inform the members and the secretariat about those interests. This email interchange along with the Standing Register of Members' Declared Material Personal Interests from the 30 September 2024 Authority meeting in which the information is included, is at **Attachment C**.

Mr Kean most recently updated his declaration regarding Wollemi on 25 November 2025 to reflect the change in his role title, to become Director and Head of Fundraising. This is reflected in the excerpt from the Standing Register of Members' Declared Material Personal Interests dated 1 December 2025 at **Attachment D**.

As required by the Climate Change Authority Act, the Minister has been advised of changes to Mr Kean's interests and associated handling decisions on a periodic basis when members' declared interests have changed. These letters routinely enclose copies of the updated Standing Register of Members' Declared Material Personal Interests, and the Standing Notice of Members' Interests. The most recent update letter to the Minister, dated 5 December 2025, is at **Attachment E**.

*Exclusion of Mr Kean from Authority deliberations*

There have been two occasions only to date in which Mr Kean has not been involved in substantive Authority deliberations as a result of his role with Wollemi. Those exclusions related to his participation in decision-making on one recommendation in an Authority report, which was considered at two Authority meetings. Otherwise, Mr Kean presided as Chair during all 16 Authority meetings since his appointment.

The two occasions were at Authority meetings on 3 October 2024 and 12 November 2024, in the context of decision-making on the Authority's *2024 Annual Progress Report*. Relevant points are:

1. At the 3 October meeting, Mr Kean advised the members that Wollemi was considering investing in a distributed renewable energy system developer. Although Wollemi did not have a concluded financial interest at that point in time (the acquisition was not in fact completed until 9 September 2025), Mr Kean raised the proposed acquisition on the basis that he wished to avoid any risk of perceived conflict of interest concerns in the future.

2. As required under the PGPA Rule, Mr Kean recused himself while members considered his involvement in relevant matters.
3. The members decided that out of an abundance of caution Mr Kean should not be involved in decision-making on one specific area of the Annual Progress Report, which included discussion of commercial and industrial renewable energy generation and storage.
4. As a result, Mr Kean was not present for decisions on that topic but participated in full in discussions.
5. The same approach was taken at the 12 November meeting, when the report received final endorsement from the members.

Excerpts of the relevant minutes for Authority meetings on 3 October 2024 and 12 November 2024 are at **Attachment F**.

*Potential future exclusion from aspects of ACCU review*

Following discussion at the 5 August 2025 Authority meeting, restrictions have been established in relation to Mr Kean's future involvement in the Authority's current review of the ACCU Scheme due to Wollemi's interests in carbon farming projects. The general approach agreed by members is that, unless otherwise determined, Mr Kean will not be involved in decision-making on the ACCU Scheme review report and is not to receive drafts of the review report. However, in order to obtain the benefit of his knowledge and expertise, Mr Kean would be permitted to be involved in discussions relating to the review.

The excerpt of the minutes of the 5 August Authority meeting at **Attachment G** records this decision. The review has not yet reached the stage where it has been necessary for Mr Kean to be excluded for any part of the process. On three occasions in which the ACCU review has been discussed at recent Authority meetings, members have formally considered whether it is appropriate for Mr Kean to be involved and determined that he did not need to be excluded. This was because the matters under consideration at the meeting were high level only and could not reasonably impact his private interests.

The Authority would be happy to supply any further information that the committee requires.

Yours sincerely

Eliza Murray  
A/g Chief Executive Officer

22 December 2025

**Enclosures:**

Attachment A – preliminary email correspondence regarding incoming Chair's interests  
Attachment B – excerpt from Authority meeting minutes - 13 August 2024  
Attachment C – further correspondence re interests and updated register  
Attachment D – Standing Register of Members' Declared Material Personal Interests – 1 December 2025  
Attachment E – letter to Minister Bowen updating member interests – 5 December 2025  
Attachment F - excerpts from Authority meeting minutes – 3 October 2024 and 12 November 2024  
Attachment G - excerpt from Authority meeting minutes 5 August 2025