



Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee
Supplementary Estimates 2022-23
Monday, 14 February 2022
Daily summary

The Committee met from 9:00am until 11:00pm.

The Committee called:

- The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
- Australian Renewable Energy Agency
- Clean Energy Finance Corporation
- Climate Change Authority
- Snowy Hydro Limited
- Clean Energy Regulator
- Australian Energy Regulator
- Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner
- Bureau of Meteorology
- National Water Grid Authority
- Director of National Parks
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority

The Committee discussed a range of topics, including:

- Engagement of Deloitte consultants
- Number of additional Departmental staff hired
- Outline sought of Department bullying complaints processes
- Safeguard Mechanism policy development process including modelling of costs, emissions reductions vs offset, and potential offshoring of clinker production
- Reporting of oil and gas emissions
- Whether Government is considering a road user charge
- Departmental position on research into native forests and carbon abatement
- Availability and reliability of electric vehicle charging stations
- Price premiums and incentives for electric vehicles
- Policy on hydrogen fuelled vehicles
- Update on effectiveness of electric vehicle strategy
- The legitimacy of certifications under the Climate Active program
- Feasibility, funding, and progress of Rewiring the Nation policy
- Impacts of the development of offshore wind in the Gippsland and Hunter regions
- Status of National Energy Market suspension supports
- Impacts of gas price controls
- Concerns over Verra carbon credits
- Targets for funding from the Clean Energy Finance Corporation
- Grant to the Port of Newcastle for a hydrogen hub
- Applications to Industrial Energy Transformation Studies Program
- Ramifications of Climate Change Act on the economy and for meeting Paris Agreement targets
- Departmental position on International Energy Agency methane target

- Additional fossil fuel projects and pathway to 1.5-2 degrees of warming
- Implications of Snowy Hydro Tantangara Reservoir tunnel-boring standstill and sinkhole
- Timeline for Snowy Hydro 2.0 connection to transmission network
- Snowy Hydro and Dam/flood mitigation efforts
- Impacts of Snowy Hydro water releases on the river system
- Invasive fish species being transferred via new tunnels into existing dams
- Snowy 2.0 expected completion date
- Update on Hunter power project to facilitate hydrogen firing
- Large-scale wind and solar farm investments
- Emissions Reduction Fund contracting arrangements
- Electricity generation capacity of wind and solar at peak
- Timeline for projects Capacity Investment Scheme
- Number of electricity customers on hardship plans
- Factors contributing to trends in energy prices
- Energy retailers passing costs on to customers
- Australian Energy Regulator role in regulating transmission costs
- Decommissioning plans for renewable energy facilities
- Social licence for planned projects
- Transition from La Nina to El Nino and temperature forecasts
- Reliability of Bureau of Meteorology facilities and observations, including flood gauges and modelling
- Bureau of Meteorology rebranding
- Monitoring stations for severe weather and data collection
- Weather balloon launch sites and operational height
- BoM workplans for new radar sites
- National Water Grid Authority funding and administrative arrangements
- Plans for and progress on pump hydro infrastructure projects
- Funding for access to clean drinking water in rural and remote regions, including indigenous communities
- Contributions of National Water Grid Authority projects to food security
- Director of National Parks policy on culturally insensitive photos of Parks
- Detail on review of South-east Network management plan
- Director of National Parks discussions with Australian Fisheries Management Authority
- Implications of Special purpose and green zones in marine parks
- UNESCO classification of endangerment of Great Barrier Reef
- Role of Special envoy for the Great Barrier Reef
- Methodology for determining tourism value of the Great Barrier Reef
- Update on sea surface temperatures and spread of crown of thorns on the Great Barrier Reef
- GBRMPA response to UNESCO report on the Great Barrier Reef
- Issues relating to berthing in Hobart of the new Polar icebreaking vessel
- Update on Atmospheric and Space Physics program at Adelaide University
- Details of the Antarctic division complaints process
- Consequences of fire on Antarctic supply vessel MPV Everest
- Impacts of Antarctic heatwave on sea ice and glacier stability