



Senate Economics Legislation Committee
Additional Estimates 2025-26
Thursday, 12 February 2026
Daily summary

The committee met from 9.00am until 11.00pm in Committee Room 2R1.

The committee called the Treasury and the Industry, Science and Resources portfolios, discussing the following topics:

Reserve Bank of Australia

- Economic factors contributing to inflation;
- Shifts in global economic conditions; and
- Australian housing market.

Department of the Treasury and Housing Australia

- Progress on the national housing target under the National Housing Accord;
- 5 per cent deposit scheme;
- Operation of the Housing Australia Board, including the appointment of a Chair;
- Distribution of funds under the Housing Australia Future Fund (HAFF);
- Current social and affordable housing statistics;
- Order for the Production of Documents provided by Housing Australia regarding board meetings; and
- The relationship between migration levels and the housing sector, and comparisons to other countries.

Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR) and National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA)

- Publication of ministerial interviews on the department's website;
- Closure of the Albermarle lithium refinery in Western Australia;
- Modern Manufacturing Initiative grants and projects;
- Advisory service contracts;
- Mount Isa Transformation Study;
- Green aluminium production facilities;
- Bonaparte Carbon Capture and Storage Project;
- Artificial Intelligence programs;
- Rocket launch programs;
- Transition to renewable energy;
- DISR activities in Timor-Leste;
- Coal and gas demand;

- The Indigenous workforce in the mining sector;
- Gas market review, including its consideration of the government's decarbonisation objectives and the domestic gas reservation policy;
- The *Future Gas Strategy* and the release of acreage for new gas fields, including in the Otway Basin;
- Decommissioning of offshore oil and gas infrastructure;
- Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EPBC) reforms and the oil and gas sector;
- Changes to levies charged by the National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator (NOPTA), and upcoming review of the operations of NOPTA;
- Likely impact of the EPBC reforms on NOPSEMA's work and role; and
- Funding and work of the Australian Radioactive Waste Agency.

National Reconstruction Fund Corporation (NRFC)

- Crowding-in financial effect; and
- Investment decisions of the NRFC.

Net Zero Economy Authority (NZE)

- Community engagement by NZEA; and
- Employment support for workers impacted by the energy transition.

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation

- Energy system modelling;
- Organisational funding and job losses; and
- Biocontrol research.

The Chief Scientist and the Office of Industry, Innovation and Science Australia were released from the program without questions

This concludes the committee's examination of the 2025-26 Additional Estimates.

Please contact the secretariat on (02) 6277 3540 or economics.sen@aph.gov.au if you have any questions.