



Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee  
Additional Estimates 2025–26  
Monday, 9 February 2026  
Daily summary

The committee met from 9.00am until 10.59pm.

The committee called the Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water Portfolio and discussed the following topics:

Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW)

Corporate matters and general questions

- Minister Bowen’s mobile phone bill;
- Travel costs;
- Internal guidance on compliance with Senate orders for the production of documents;
- Monitoring compliance of annual reports;
- Changes to the department’s organisational structure to support COP31;
- Treatment of Gazetted public holidays in the Enterprise Bargaining Agreement; and
- Costs of the department’s delegation to attend COP30.

Outcome 2: Program 2.1

- Algal bloom in South Australia;
- Reforms to the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*;
- Rainforest Reserves Australia;
- Endangerment of pygmy blue whales;
- The Saving the Native Species program;
- Regional Forest Agreements;
- Biological rabbit control;
- Land clearing – information, compliance and exemptions;
- Environment Protection Reform Bill 2025; and
- Wildlife rescue and rehabilitation.

Outcome 2: Program 2.2

- World heritage nomination of the Great Australian Bight;
- Great Barrier Reef – state of conservation report, Queensland government details, reef water quality improvement plan;
- Cultural Heritage Laws – interaction and engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, framework for truth-telling; and
- Walker Corporation (Adelaide CBD development) – approvals, heritage council interaction, call in power.

### Outcome 2: Program 2.3

- Improvements to sustainable procurement by governments to include recycled materials;
- Solar panel recycling; and
- Negotiations in relation to the Global Plastics Treaty.

### Bureau of Meteorology (BOM)

- Expenditure on the National Water Funding Information Centre;
- National Climate Risk Assessment Project;
- Australian Climate Service website;
- Potential redeployment of Commonwealth Scientific Industrial Research Organisation staff to climate related roles in the BOM;
- Triggers for BOM to issue a severe heatwave warning;
- The new BOM website – redevelopment following feedback;
- BOM assuming responsibility for monitoring of certain flood gauges from state governments;
- Automation and maintenance of flood gauges;
- Recent flooding in Queensland; and
- Expenditure on external contracts for the ROBUST Program.

### Outcome 4

- DCCEEW funding contribution for the Paradise Dam project;
- Status of water buyback scheme;
- Utilization of water purchased by the Commonwealth; and
- Release of water from storages in the Snowy scheme.

### Outcome 3

- Logistics around infrastructure work at Macquarie Island.

### Outcome 1

- Funding for Minister Bowen's activities in relation to COP31;
- Public consultation following the release of the Gas Market Review;
- Costings for the Capacity Investment Scheme;
- Development of a low carbon liquid fuel market;
- Process of assigning energy efficiency ratings to new home builds; and
- Forecasted demand that new Data Centers may have on the electricity network.

### Climate Change Authority

- Declarations of interest by the Chair, the Hon Matt Kean.

### Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC)

- CEFC subsidies for electric vehicle purchases.

### Emissions Reduction Assurance Committee (ERAC)

- Staffing levels and salaries in the ERAC Secretariat; and
- Review of the Beef Cattle Herd Methodology following its suspension.

### Snowy Hydro Limited

- Number of individuals engaged in Snowy Hydro's development programs; and
- Progress on the broader Snowy Hydro project.

The committee released the Inspector General of Water Compliance, Threatened Species Scientific Committee, Australian Institute of Marine Science, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Clean Energy Regulator and the Australian Renewable Energy Agency from the hearing.

The committee will resume its examination of the 2025-26 Additional Estimates at 9.00am on 10 February 2026 for its examination of the Communications, Sport and the Arts portfolio.

Please contact the secretariat on (02) 6277 3526 or [ec.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:ec.sen@aph.gov.au) if you have any questions.