



Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2025-26
Monday, 1 December 2025
Daily summary

The committee met from 9.02am until 11.03pm.

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

- Departmental travel arrangements – for COP30 and more generally;
- Departmental legal costs for the department; and
- Approach to Senate order for the production of documents No. 100.

Outcome 1.1

- The usage of Bovaer 10 as feed-additive for cattle;
- Progress made towards the 2035 emissions reduction targets;
- COP30 delegation details including costs;
- Funding allocated for COP31 arrangements;
- Modelling surrounding the 2035 emissions reduction targets conducted by Treasury and Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO);
- Impacts of climate change on Australian agriculture;
- Emissions accounting during construction of dwellings;
- Government response to the International Court of Justice Advisory Opinion regarding climate change;
- Departmental support to Minister Bowen for COP31 including potential changes to the department's structure;
- Relationship between the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the COP;
- Australia's commitments under the Belém Declaration for the Transition Away From Fossil Fuels;
- Electricity pricing and demand, including the impact of data centres;
- Electric vehicle uptake in Norway and Australia; and
- DCCEEW's input to the development of the Transport and Infrastructure Net Zero Roadmap and Action Plan.

Outcome 1.2

- Gas Market Review, including exploration of a potential levy on gas exports;
- Capacity Investment Scheme, including any national security considerations relating to projects under the Scheme;

- The Australian Energy Market Operator's advice on the closure of the Eraring coal-fired power plant;
- Impact of unplanned outages of coal generators on electricity prices;
- Any financial support from the Commonwealth to support or underwrite coal generation; and
- Government relief for industrial facilities facing financial pressures such as the Tomago Aluminium facility.

Climate Change Authority (CCA)

- Renewable energy transition and work towards 2030/2035 targets;
- The closure of the Eraring coal fired power station and preparations for its closure;
- Recommendations to extend the standard and landfill facility baseline decline rate (4.9% each financial year until 2030) of the Safeguard Mechanism;
- Increased rate of EV uptake and associated modelling;
- Matters on which the Chair of the CCA has had to recuse himself;
- Potential legislation on a Carbon Tariff; and
- Pecuniary interests of the Chair and other officers of the CCA.

Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC)

- The working capital of the of CEFC and its allocation to projects;
- CEFC investments in clean energy technologies for affordable housing; and
- CEFC funding commitment to Wesfarmers' projects in order to accelerate the decarbonisation of Bunnings, Officeworks, and Wesfarmers Energy, Chemical and Fertilisers operations.

Emissions Reduction Assurance Committee (ERAC)

- Establishment of the Great Koala National Park in NSW; and
- ERAC Consultation on the Australian Carbon Credit Scheme (ACCU) for Improved Native Forest Management in Multiple-use Public Native Forests.

Snowy Hydro Limited

- Updates on the progress of the Snowy Hydro 2.0 project;
- Operational status of the Kurri Kurri Power Station;
- Snowy Hydro electricity contracting arrangements; and
- Effect of the diversion of water on the health of the Upper Murrumbidgee River.

Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner

- Meetings between the Commissioner and State and Commonwealth Ministers.

Clean Energy Regulator

- Regulation of a methane leak at a Darwin LNG Facility;
- Determination of Barossa as a new or existing project under the Safeguard Mechanism Estimates; and
- Process behind the appointment of the Clean Energy Council.

Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)

- Technical issues that arose when the new BoM website was launched;
- Higher than budgeted costs for the updated BoM website; and
- Contract extensions for the ROBUST project to cover maintenance and support until 2027.

The committee released the following agencies from the program:

- Australian Energy Regulator;
- Australian Renewable Energy Agency;
- Offshore Infrastructure Registrar & Offshore Infrastructure Regulator;
- Outcomes 2, 3, and 4 of the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water;
- The Inspector General of Water Compliance;
- The Threatened Species Scientific Committee;
- The Australian Institute of Marine Science; and
- The Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

The committee will next meet on Tuesday, 2 December 2025 to examine the Communications, Sport and the Arts Portfolio.

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