



Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2025-26
Tuesday, 7 October 2025
Daily summary

The committee met from 9.01am until 11.01pm.

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

- COP31 bid allocation of staffing and funds to a proposed COP31 held in Australia;
- Legislation currently being prepared by the department;
- International department travel over July-August 2025 period;
- Recruitment and background of the new DCCEEW Secretary;
- Commonwealth support for the SA Harmful Algal Bloom and potential future funding for the SA Government's summer plan;
- Incoming Government Briefs – Material released as part of a Freedom of Information (FOI) request and a Senate Order for Production of Documents (OPD) and decisions relating to what was released;
- Plastic packaging reform;
- Recruitment costs incurred by the department; and
- Information technology costs incurred by the Minister in corresponding with the department.

Outcome 1

- Transport and Infrastructure Net Zero Road Map and Action Plan;
- Commonwealth Government's 62% to 70% emissions reduction targets;
- Emission reduction targets year by year, and plans to reach those targets;
- Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCU) produced from reforestation efforts;
- \$5 billion fund set aside in the National Reconstruction Fund to support heavy industry decarbonisation;
- DCCEEW consultation in relation to the Treasury modelling on Australia's net zero transition;
- Advice provided by the Climate Change Authority (CCA) in relation to the emissions reduction target;
- Scope of the 2026-27 review of the Safeguard Mechanism;
- Commonwealth Scientific Industrial Research Organisation input into the CCA's modelling for the net zero target;
- \$2 billion in funding announced for the Clean Energy Finance Corporation announced by Minister Bowen on 18 September 2025;
- Departmental contributions towards Treasury emissions reduction target; and
- Leaking gas tank in the Barossa project in the Northern Territory.

Outcome 2

- Reform of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), including:
 - the development of national environmental standards;
 - regional planning; and 'go zones' and 'no-go zones'; and
 - climate change considerations, such as any 'climate trigger'.
- Bunbury Offshore Wind Zone – marine survey of the Bunbury Continental Shelf;
- Consultation with the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry on the carp virus (Cyprinid herpesvirus 3);
- Historical resourcing for environmental approvals;
- Maugean Skate listing advice and Macquarie Harbour oxygenation trial;
- Karara Wind Farm, Queensland;
- Shark nets and Queensland shark control program;
- Nature Repair Market;
- Robbins Island wind farm;
- Housing development approvals;
- Queen Victoria Market development;
- Native Forest Management in Multiple-use Public Native Forests Method;
- MMG tailings dam in Tarkine/Takanya region in Tasmania;
- Gemini coal mine application;
- Allegations of unauthorised clearing of koala habitat in Queensland;
- Vitrinite Vulcan South project;
- Preparations for the release of the 2026 State of the Environment Report;
- National monitoring of sea bird mortalities;
- Saving Australia's Bushland Project;
- Indigenous cultural heritage reforms;
- Conditions on protecting the indigenous rock art near the North West Gas Shelf project;
- Large scale recycling of batteries; and
- Packaging reform.

Outcome 3

- Australian Centre for Excellence in Antarctic Science funding;
- Macquarie Island Station rebuild project;
- Refuelling arrangements for RSV Nuyina including engagement with the Tasmanian Government; and
- Proposed all weather runway in Antarctica.

Outcome 4

- Timeline for the publication of the Water for the Environment Special Account;
- Commonwealth Water Quotas and recovery;
- Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) FOI Disclosure 141 – “Red and Blue Books” incoming government briefs;
- Ministerial approval of the New South Wales Fractured Rock Water Resource Plan;
- Goyder Institute for Water Research Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth Research Centre midterm review;

- State and Commonwealth communications regarding the SA Harmful Algal Bloom;
- Water Resource Plan Assessments carried out by the MDBA; and
- The Upper Murrumbidgee Drought Operating Framework.

Inspector-General of Water Compliance

- Education about water compliance in the Murray Darling Basin; and
- Enforcement and compliance of Sustainable Diversion Limits (SDL).

Bureau of Meteorology

- National Climate Risk Assessment Report – details included in the report, references to data from a 2019 report; and
- Snowfall measurement increments.

The committee released the following agencies from the program:

- Program 1.2 of DCCEEW;
- Threatened Species Scientific Committee;
- Australian Institute of Marine Science;
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority;
- Australian Renewable Energy Agency;
- Climate Change Authority;
- Clean Energy Finance Corporation;
- Emission Reduction Assurance Committee;
- Snowy Hydro Limited;
- Australian Energy Regulator;
- Australian Energy Infrastructure Commissioner; and
- Clean Energy Regulator.

The committee will resume its examination of the Supplementary Budget Estimates 2025–26 at 9.00am on 8 October 2025 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 if you have any questions.