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Standing Committee on the Environment and Energy
Committee Secretariat
PO Box 6021
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Submitted via email: Environment.Reps@aph.gov.au

18 May 2020

RE: National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Amendment (Transparency in Carbon Emissions Accounting) Bill 2020

To the members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before the committee on Friday 1 May, 2020. I would like to respond to two requests made of me during my appearance.

1. Mr Josh Wilson MP's request for further information on the timing of previous emissions disclosures.

Please see the table of information below, showing the time that passed between the conclusion of a given quarterly reporting period and the publication date of the Quarterly Updates of Australia's National Greenhouse Gas Inventory, since June 2017¹:

Period ending	Published date	Days between period ending and publication of the data
September 2019	Monday, February 24, 2020	147
June 2019	Friday, November 29, 2019	152
March 2019	Friday, August 30, 2019	152
December 2018	Thursday, June 6, 2019	157
September 2018	Thursday, February 28, 2019	151
June 2018	Friday, November 30, 2018	153
March 2018	Friday, September 28, 2018	181
December 2017	Monday, May 14, 2018	134

¹ Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources, Quarterly Updates of Australia's National Greenhouse Gas Inventory

September 2017	Wednesday, February 28, 2018	151
June 2017	Friday, December 15, 2017	168

2. Mr Josh Burns MP's question on emissions reporting by other countries.

To the best of my knowledge, few national governments, if any, regularly report on emissions from the fossil fuels they export.

However, many countries have sought to estimate their "carbon footprint" from a consumption perspective, by calculating 'consumption based emissions'. These calculations estimate the CO₂ emissions that were emitted during the production of goods or services consumed in a particular country.

Two such examples are Canada and the United Kingdom. See links below to these reports:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/environmental-indicators/carbon-dioxide-emissions-consumption-perspective.html>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uks-carbon-footprint>

OECD countries tend to consume more emissions than they produce, meaning the emissions used to create those goods and services consumed are emitted elsewhere.

While such information provides a different perspective to the stated purpose of this Bill, it is information that underscores a key issue in the debate about how best to address climate change. While Australia exports much of its fossil fuels to Asia, Australians also consume a significant quantity of goods manufactured in those countries. Whichever you look at it, Australia has a responsibility to reduce its emissions across the entire value chain.

Should you require further information, please email [REDACTED] or call [REDACTED].

Yours sincerely,

Dan Gocher
Director of Climate and Environment, ACCR