

Environment and Communications References
Answers to questions on notice
Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water Portfolio

Inquiry: Inquiry into the Middle Arm Industrial Precinct
Question No: IQ24-000057
Division/Agency: Climate Change Policy Adaptation and Risk Division
Topic: Commonwealth-Northern Territory Bilateral Energy and Emissions Reduction Agreement
Question Date: 19 March 2024
Question Type: Written

Senator Hanson-Young asked:

1. What is the status of the April 2022 Commonwealth-Northern Territory Bilateral Energy and Emissions Reduction Agreement, is it currently still proceeding as signed or has it been revised since the change of government?
 - a. If it has been revised, please advise which clauses have been removed or amended.
 - b. In particular, Schedule C: Gas - has this schedule changed or is it still proceeding as originally agreed?

Answer:

1. Under the previous government, the Commonwealth engaged bilaterally with jurisdictions through non-binding ten-year energy and emissions reduction agreements signed by First Ministers. Agreements were made with New South Wales, South Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory. As part of the Audit of Wasteful Spending, the Government reviewed all financial commitments made under these agreements. Outcomes of this review were communicated publicly in the 2022-23 October Budget.

In 2022, National Cabinet agreed to add climate change to the title and scope of the existing Energy Ministers' Meeting emphasising the synergies and level of coordination required to meet climate and energy priorities. The Energy and Climate Change Ministerial Council provides a clear avenue for Commonwealth and State and Territory engagement on climate change and energy matters.

As such, the previous governance arrangements under the bilateral deals are no longer being serviced.