

Outcomes

Climate Change Authority Meeting 11 December 2024



Preamble

The Climate Change Authority met on 11 December for its final meeting of 2024. The meeting commenced with an Acknowledgement of Country, delivered by the Chair, and standard deliberations relating to administrative matters, including declaration and handling of potential conflicts of interest and the CEO's report.

Summary – 11 December 2024 meeting

Briefing on the government's Net Zero Plan

Representatives from the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water and The Treasury briefed members on the development of the Australian Government's Net Zero Plan, 2035 emissions reduction target, and the six underpinning sector plans.

Agency representatives provided a high-level summary of work to date and discussed the role that the authority's 2035 targets advice, and its decarbonisation pathways advice, will play in shaping these.

Climate Change Authority at COP 29

Members discussed the outcomes and insights gained from the authority's participation in COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan. The authority's contingent, led by the Chair, met with representatives of over countries with a focus on members of the International Climate Councils Network, Pacific neighbours and Australia's major trade partners.

Members heard that many nations considering potential implications of the US election outcome before submitting their 2035 Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

2035 targets advice

Members continued deliberations to develop the authority's advice to the Australian Government on 2035 emissions reduction targets. Members noted the potential impact of recent international developments on global climate and energy progress and agreed to examine implications for Australia's decarbonisation pathways.

Members received an updated overview of the secretariat's latest analysis on Australia's emissions reduction potential. Members discussed the underlying assumptions, outputs and the implications of adopting nuclear energy for Australia's emissions reduction trajectory, agreeing further analysis to be undertaken.

Members discussed the importance of addressing both domestic and international emissions reduction opportunities in the authority's advice. Members also discussed a range of future technological and behavioural trends that have the potential to significantly reduce emissions but may currently be difficult to quantify and agreed to undertake further work in this area.

Members discussed the importance of completing these additional pieces of work as part of finalising the 2035 targets advice to the Australian Government.

Other business

Members agreed that authority meetings would be held every 8 weeks in 2025, with a calendar of meeting dates to be provided to members in January.

Members discussed the authority's 2025 work program and options for self-initiated work to be undertaken alongside mandated activities.

The Chair and CEO acknowledged the contributions of Dr Cathy Foley in her ex officio role with the authority since 2021 as Australia's Chief Scientist, noting this would be Dr Foley's final meeting due to completion of her term as Australia's Chief Scientist.

Attendance

Attendees

The Hon Matt Kean	Chair
Professor Lesley Hughes	Member
Ms Susie Smith	Member
Dr Virginia Marshall	Member
Ms Patty Akopiantz	Member
Mr Richard Bolt	Member
Professor Lesley Hughes	Member
Ms Fiona Simson	Member
Dr Cathy Foley AO PSM FAA FTSE	Member (Ex-officio)

Apologies

Nil

Secretariat

Mr Brad Archer	Chief Executive Officer
Ms Eliza Murray	General Manager, Strategy Branch
Dr Matt Searson	Acting General Manager, Analysis Branch
Mr Tim Banks	General Counsel
Dr Jennifer Rayner	Director, Office of the CEO
Secretariat note takers	