

Outcomes

Climate Change Authority Meeting 18 February 2025



Preamble

The Climate Change Authority met on 18 February for its first meeting of 2025. 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. Several members provided updates to their notified interests.

Summary – 18 February 2025

Guest Presentation – Australian Council of Social Service (ACOSS)

ACOSS representatives presented to Authority members on opportunities and priorities to increase the inclusiveness of climate action, and considerations which should underpin the setting of Australia's 2035 emissions reduction target.

ACOSS representatives and members discussed opportunities to address inequalities and reduce poverty through actions which also address climate change; policy opportunities to deliver more rooftop solar and support building retrofits in low income and vulnerable communities; and the potential economic benefits to Australia of setting an ambitious target for 2035 together with policies enabling it to be met.

Nuclear Analysis

Authority members considered the findings of its self-initiated analysis on the emissions impacts of pursuing a nuclear pathway for Australia's electricity system.

Members discussed the role of the Authority in providing independent, transparent information about policies which will impact national emissions, to enable informed decision-making by all stakeholders who look to the Authority for such advice. Following detailed consideration of these issues, members agreed to proceed with the release of a public report presenting the Authority's evidence-based findings.

Members discussed potential pathways for the development of nuclear – globally and in Australia – and noted the importance of maintaining a technology neutral approach and continually monitoring energy sector developments.

2035 Targets Advice

Authority members continued deliberations on the development of advice to the Australian Government regarding 2035 emissions reduction targets, considering recent developments and emerging trends. This included discussion of ongoing Authority analysis on developments in US Government policies, including potential changes to measures within the Inflation Reduction Act and the introduction of tariffs. Members also considered analysis on new technologies, behaviour change trends and exogenous shocks which could influence Australia's emissions reductions to 2035.

Members received an update on the development of technical analysis on Australia's emissions reduction potential, and continued discussions about the implications of this sector-by-sector analysis for the economy-wide emissions reduction target.

Electricity Sector Program

Members received an update on work within the Authority's electricity sector program, and development of

an upcoming report building on recommendations made in the 2024 Annual Progress Report.

The members discussed insights from stakeholder consultation on this project, and how these will shape the advice presented in the forthcoming report.

Members engaged in an in-depth discussion about the policy options to be put forward in the forthcoming report and the evidence base underpinning them.

2025 Work Program

Members reviewed and discussed priorities for the Authority's 2025 work program, including the strategic purpose of each proposed project. Members noted the possibility of the Authority being tasked with additional special reviews in the second half of 2025.

Other Business

Members discussed the forward meeting schedule for 2025 and necessary adjustments to enable timely consideration of forthcoming outputs from the Authority's major programs of work.

Attendance

Attendees

Mr Matt Kean*	Chair
Ms Susie Smith	Member
Mr John McGee	Member
Professor Lesley Hughes	Member
Dr Virginia Marshall	Member
Ms Patty Akopiantz	Member
Ms Fiona Simson	Member
Mr Richard Bolt	Member

Apologies

Professor Tony Haymet PhD FTSE	Member (Ex-officio)
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Secretariat

Mr Brad Archer	Chief Executive Officer
Ms Eliza Murray	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Dr Matt Searson	Acting General Manager, Analysis Branch
Mr Tim Banks	General Counsel
Dr Jennifer Rayner	General Manager, Outreach and Enabling Branch
Ms Zoe Sinclair	Acting General Manager, Systems and Science Branch
Secretariat note takers	

* Partial attendance