

s22

From: Fredericks, David
Sent: Friday, 8 May 2020 8:15 AM
To: Johnston, Chris
Cc: Evans, Jo; Sullivan, Sean; s22 Johnson, Edwina; s22 Bennett, Helen; Trotman, Paul; Fredericks, David
Subject: RE: For clearance: submission to Climate Trigger Bill Inquiry [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]
Attachments: Correspondence - DISER response to Senate Standing Committees on Environ....docx

Security Classification: For Official Use Only

Thanks Chris.

I'm fine with this – and so it is approved.

Much appreciated.

David.

David Fredericks, PSM
Secretary
Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources

Industry House Level 13
 10 Binara Street, Canberra City ACT 2601
 GPO Box 2013, Canberra ACT 2601 Australia

s22

@industry.gov.au

Internet: www.industry.gov.au

ABN 74 599 608 295

Executive Assistant s22

@industry.gov.au

Supporting economic growth and job creation for all Australians

For Official Use Only

From: Johnston, Chris
Sent: Wednesday, 6 May 2020 11:11 AM
To: Fredericks, David s22 @industry.gov.au>
Cc: Evans, Jo s22 @industry.gov.au>; Sullivan, Sean s22 @industry.gov.au>; s22 @industry.gov.au>; Johnson, Edwina s22 @industry.gov.au>; s22 @industry.gov.au>; Bennett, Helen s22 @industry.gov.au>; Trotman, Paul s22 @industry.gov.au>
Subject: For clearance: submission to Climate Trigger Bill Inquiry [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

David

Please find attached for your clearance a draft submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communication's inquiry into Senator Hanson-Young's Climate Change Trigger Bill. The Bill is at the link below:

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Bills_Legislation/Bills_Search_Results/Result?bId=s1255

The draft submission incorporates input from the Emissions Reduction and Resources divisions and has been cleared through Jo and Sean.

Once you are ok with the submission I will give a heads up to Ministers Taylor and Pitt's offices prior to submitting the letter.

I seek your clearance of our submission by cob Wednesday 13 May. Please let me know if you would like to discuss any aspects of the submission. Submissions to the inquiry close on 21 May.

Regards
Chris

For Official Use Only

s22

From: Johnson, Edwina
Sent: Tuesday, 12 May 2020 9:53 AM
To: Johnston, Chris; Bennett, Helen; Trotman, Paul
Cc: s22 Sturgiss, Rob; de Silva, Sanjiva; Murphy, Paul;
s22
Subject: RE: Department's submission to Climate Trigger Bill Inquiry [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]
Security Classification: For Official Use Only

Thanks Chris

I don't think David needs to re-clear, but suggest providing for information once Helen and Paul are comfortable

Thanks
Edwina

For Official Use Only

From: Johnston, Chris
Sent: Tuesday, 12 May 2020 9:50 AM
To: Bennett, Helen s22 @industry.gov.au>; Trotman, Paul s22 @industry.gov.au>
Cc: s22 @industry.gov.au>; s22 @industry.gov.au>;
Sturgiss, Rob s22 @industry.gov.au>; de Silva, Sanjiva s22 @industry.gov.au>; Johnson, Edwina
s22 @industry.gov.au>; Murphy, Paul s22 @industry.gov.au>; s22
s22 @industry.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Department's submission to Climate Trigger Bill Inquiry [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Helen, Paul

Further to s22 email, I have made some edits to our draft submission and these are shown in track change in the attached document. Could you please review these changes and confirm you are ok with them before I send it on to Jo to re-clear?

Edwina – would David need to re-clear this submission based on the edits?

Paul, Sanjiva, Rob – the additional sentences are drawn from the QoN s22 attached and from the draft Technology Roadmap.

Chris

For Official Use Only

From: s22
Sent: Tuesday, 12 May 2020 9:14 AM
To: Johnston, Chris s22 @industry.gov.au>; s22 @industry.gov.au>
Cc: Bennett, Helen s22 @industry.gov.au>; Trotman, Paul s22 @industry.gov.au>; s22
s22 @industry.gov.au>; s22 @industry.gov.au>; DLO Taylor
Subject: RE: Department's submission to Climate Trigger Bill Inquiry [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Hi Chris

Thanks for sharing.

s47C

s47C

Grateful also if you can flick a final draft through for me to run past my Chief of Staff.

Thanks

s22
Adviser
Office of the Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction | The Hon Angus Taylor MP
s22

For Official Use Only

From: Johnston, Chris
Sent: Friday, 8 May 2020 9:17 AM
To: s22 @industry.gov.au>; s22 @energy.gov.au>
Cc: Fredericks, David s22 @industry.gov.au>; Evans, Jo s22 @industry.gov.au>; Johnson, Edwina s22 @industry.gov.au>; Bennett, Helen s22 @industry.gov.au>; Trotman, Paul s22 @industry.gov.au>; s22 @industry.gov.au>; s22 @industry.gov.au>
Subject: Department's submission to Climate Trigger Bill Inquiry [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

s22

The Department has prepared a submission to the Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communication's inquiry into Senator Hanson-Young's Climate Change Trigger Bill. The Bill is at the link below:

https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Bills_Legislation/Bills_Search_Results/Result?bId=s1255

We plan to send in our submission at the end of next week, ahead of the deadline of 21 May. I am sending you a copy of our submission (attached) for your visibility before we submit. I am sending it to both of you as it incorporates input from both the Emissions Reduction and Resources divisions.

If you have any questions or concerns about the submission please give me a call. I'd be grateful if you could confirm you have no issues by cob Thursday 14 May.

Regards
Chris

Chris Johnston
General Manager
Climate Change Policy Branch

For Official Use Only
For Official Use Only

For Official Use Only



Australian Government
**Department of Industry, Science,
Energy and Resources**

DEPUTY SECRETARY

JO EVANS

Senator the Hon David Fawcett
Chair
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Senator,

Thank you for the opportunity for the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (the Department) to respond to the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee's inquiry into the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Climate Trigger) Bill 2020*.

The Department provides advice and implements a number of Australian Government policies and programs relating to industry, science, energy, resources and emissions reduction. The Department leads the development and coordination of domestic climate change policy, participates in international forums to support effective action on climate change and administers climate change programs to help reduce emissions.

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)* is Australia's primary national environmental protection legislation. According to the first reading of the *Climate Trigger Bill*, the proposed amendment to the *EPBC Act* is put forward to "fulfil Australia's obligations under the Climate Change Conventions".

The Australian government has a comprehensive suite of policies and programs in place to drive emissions reductions across the economy and to fulfil Australia's international commitments under the Paris Agreement. These initiatives encourage innovation and expand the clean energy sector while maintaining a strong economy.

As part of the coordinated global effort to address climate change, the Government has set a strong, achievable target to reduce Australia's emissions by 2030 by 26 to 28 per cent below 2005 levels.

The Government's emission reduction policies are working. *Australia's emissions projections 2019* (<https://publications.industry.gov.au/publications/climate-change/climate-change/publications/emissions-projections-2019.html>) show Australia is on track to exceed its 2030 target by 16 million tonnes (including past overachievement).

For Official Use Only

The Government's Climate Solutions Package is a \$3.5 billion investment which maps out how Australia will achieve its 2030 target. The Package includes a \$2 billion Climate Solutions Fund to build on the success of the Emissions Reduction Fund and continue the investment in low-cost abatement.

The Climate Solutions Package is supporting Australia's low emissions future through significant investments in energy infrastructure, such as the expansion of the Snowy Mountains Hydro Scheme, a range of new energy efficiency measures for homes and businesses and the development of a National Electric Vehicle Strategy to ensure the transition to electric vehicles is planned and managed.

To deliver emissions reduction policy objectives, the Government is developing a long-term emissions reduction strategy and Technology Investment Roadmap to support Australia's transition to a lower emissions economy and ensure technology investments provide the right support at the right time along the innovation chain.

The long-term emissions reduction strategy will have a technology focussed approach, underpinned by the investment signals outlined in the Technology Investment Roadmap. The strategy will also bring together the positive climate change elements of other processes and strategies underway across government to ensure a consolidated national approach in the transition to a lower emissions economy.

Since 2011, the Commonwealth has also made major investments in Australia's clean energy industry through the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) and the Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC). Investment in clean energy and low emissions technologies, to December 2019, total over \$9.17 billion funding over 760 projects. The Australian Government has invested \$10.4 billion into more than 670 clean energy projects with a total project value in excess of \$35 billion. These investments include the largest pumped hydro scheme in the southern hemisphere, Snowy 2.0, hydrogen demonstration projects, electric vehicle charging networks, and biofuels production.

The Department notes the proposed amendments will have significant impact on Australia's resources sector. In 2019 the resources sector comprised 8.7 per cent of Australia's gross domestic product, 73 per cent of goods exports and employed over 250,000 people. Ongoing development of Australia's mineral and energy resources provides significant opportunity for economic growth and prosperity for the Australian people.

Australia's resources sector is a major contributor to Australia's economy and our energy exports such as LNG are contributing to efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions globally. Both the CSIRO and the International Energy Agency (IEA) have noted in recent reports that coal-to-gas switching can reduce emissions by as much as 50 per cent when producing electricity.

In its report *The Role of Gas in Today's Energy Transitions* (2019), the IEA found that fuel switching has significant CO2 and air quality benefits, and that on average, coal-to-gas switching reduces emissions by 50% when producing electricity and by 33% when providing heat. The IEA also found that coal-to-gas switching avoided more than 500 million tonnes of CO2 emissions over this period 2010-2018.

Commented ^{s22} Suggest deleting this paragraph – I think the addition to the paragraph above covers ^{s22} point?

For Official Use Only

Extending the review and assessment of projects will directly increase the costs associated with project development. In the resources sector, delays to project approval can cost project proponents up to \$16 million a month to retain necessary staff and capital required to commence development once a project has been approved.

One example of the potential negative impact of delays in project approvals relates to offshore oil and gas production activities. Offshore oil and gas activities are currently assessed by NOPSEMA under streamlined regulatory arrangements, and covered by a class of action approval under the EPBC Act. This assessment requires proponents to describe how they will mitigate environmental impacts arising from their activity, including management of greenhouse gas emissions. This bill proposes to require approvals for undertaking emissions-intensive actions, defined as an action that involves mining operations or drilling exploration. This would have implications for all such activities in the onshore and offshore resources sectors and could be a significant disincentive to investment.

I appreciate your consideration of this information and trust it will be of interest to the Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Jo Evans
Deputy Secretary
Climate Change and Energy Innovation Group
[Date]

s22

From: Trotman, Paul
Sent: Friday, 15 May 2020 8:53 AM
To: Bennett, Helen; Johnston, Chris
Cc: s22
Subject: Re: Department's submission to Climate Trigger Bill Inquiry [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

For Official Use Only

I'm still waiting to hear back from Minister Pitt's office to get a sense of whether they are happy with the balance.

For Official Use Only

From: "Bennett, Helen" s22 <[@industry.gov.au](mailto:hbennett@industry.gov.au)>
Date: Friday, 15 May 2020 at 8:22:08 am
To: "Johnston, Chris" s22 <[@industry.gov.au](mailto:cjohnston@industry.gov.au)>, "Trotman, Paul" s22 <[@industry.gov.au](mailto:ptrotman@industry.gov.au)>
Cc: s22 <[@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)>
Subject: RE: Department's submission to Climate Trigger Bill Inquiry [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Sorry Chris – I meant to get back to you. Yes I am fine with them s47C

Regards


Helen

Helen Bennett

Head of Emissions Reduction Division

s22

Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources | www.industry.gov.au

 *The department acknowledges the traditional owners of the country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to them and their cultures and to the elders past and present.*

For Official Use Only

From: Johnston, Chris
Sent: Friday, 15 May 2020 8:16 AM
To: Bennett, Helen ; Trotman, Paul
Cc: s22
Subject: FW: Department's submission to Climate Trigger Bill Inquiry [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Hi Helen, Paul

Were you ok with the edits to this submission?

Chris

s22

Pages 2-3 of Document 4 contains duplicate information and therefore has been redacted as irrelevant under section 22 of the FOI Act

s22

From: Johnston, Chris
Sent: Friday, 15 May 2020 3:45 PM
To: Bennett, Helen
Subject: FW: Department's submission to Climate Trigger Bill Inquiry [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Security Classification:
For Official Use Only

Helen – could you give me a call about this when you get a chance?
Thanks
Chris

For Official Use Only

From: s22
Sent: Friday, 15 May 2020 3:21 PM
To: Johnston, Chris
Cc: s22
DLO Resources ; Bennett, Helen ; Trotman, Paul
Subject: FW: Department's submission to Climate Trigger Bill Inquiry [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Hi Chris – thanks for the opportunity to comment on the draft submission on the Climate Trigger Amendment Bill and apologise for the delay in responding. The actions that Australia is taking as part of its responsibilities under the Paris Agreement are well covered in your proposed response.

s47C

24J What is an *emissions-intensive action*?

An action is an *emissions-intensive action* if the action:

- (a) involves mining operations; or
- (b) involves drilling exploration; or
- (c) involves land clearing; or
- (d) is specified in the regulations for the purposes of this paragraph.

Further – including additional regulation on this major part of our economy is counter to Government policy to reduce regulation on industry where practical. Appreciate that the draft submission does emphasise some of the benefits of the resources sector has for Australia but doesn't make the point on removing regulation not increasing it. Would note that Minister Ley has put out information on how her department is working to reduce assessment timeframes – this would go in the opposite direction.

s47C

It would be worth also consulting with the Northern Australia part of the Department on how this amendment might impact some of their projects.

s47C

Pages 2-3 of Document 5 contains duplicate information and therefore has been redacted as irrelevant under section 22 of the FOI Act

s22

From: s22
Sent: Monday, 18 May 2020 8:14 AM
To: Johnston, Chris
Cc: s22
Subject: RE: Department's submission to Climate Trigger Bill Inquiry [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Hi Chris, thanks! Happy to be back.
Sure, we'll take care of this one.
Cheers
s22

For Official Use Only

From: Johnston, Chris
Sent: Monday, 18 May 2020 8:09 AM
To: s22 @industry.gov.au>
Cc: s22 @industry.gov.au>; s22 @industry.gov.au>
Subject: Fwd: Department's submission to Climate Trigger Bill Inquiry [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

For Official Use Only

Hi s22
Welcome back! Could you please take this one forward today? I'll forward the other email with all the details.
Thanks!
Chris

For Official Use Only

From: "Evans, Jo" s22 @industry.gov.au>
Date: Sunday, 17 May 2020 at 4:18:13 pm
To: "Johnston, Chris" s22 @industry.gov.au>
Cc: "Bennett, Helen" s22 @industry.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Department's submission to Climate Trigger Bill Inquiry [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

s47C

Thanks for the heads up

For Official Use Only

From: Johnston, Chris
Sent: Friday, 15 May 2020 5:31 PM
To: Evans, Jo s22 @industry.gov.au>
Cc: Bennett, Helen s22 @industry.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Department's submission to Climate Trigger Bill Inquiry [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Jo
This is an update on the department's submission to the Climate Change Trigger Bill Senate inquiry. s22 asked for some extra text around LNG and Snowy (see email chain below) and we incorporated that into the revised letter (attached).

s47C

Chris

s22

Pages 3-4 of Document 6 contains duplicate information and therefore has been redacted as irrelevant under section 22 of the FOI Act

Document 7 is exempt in full under section 47C and section 22 of the FOI Act

For Official Use Only



Australian Government
**Department of Industry, Science,
Energy and Resources**

DEPUTY SECRETARY

JO EVANS

Senator the Hon David Fawcett
Chair
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Senator,

Thank you for the opportunity for the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (the Department) to respond to the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee's inquiry into the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Climate Trigger) Bill 2020*.

The Department provides advice and implements a number of Australian Government policies and programs relating to industry, science, energy, resources and emissions reduction. The Department leads the development and coordination of domestic climate change policy, participates in international forums to support effective action on climate change and administers climate change programs to help reduce emissions.

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)* is Australia's primary national environmental protection legislation. According to the first reading of the *Climate Trigger Bill*, the proposed amendment to the *EPBC Act* is put forward to "fulfil Australia's obligations under the Climate Change Conventions".

~~However, the The~~ Australian government has a comprehensive suite of policies and programs in place to drive emissions reductions across the economy and to fulfil Australia's international commitments under the Paris Agreement. These initiatives encourage innovation and expand the clean energy sector while maintaining a strong economy.

As part of the coordinated global effort to address climate change, the Government has set a strong, achievable target to reduce Australia's emissions by 2030 by 26 to 28 per cent below 2005 levels.

The Government's emission reduction policies are working. *Australia's emissions projections 2019* (<https://publications.industry.gov.au/publications/climate-change/climate-change/publications/emissions-projections-2019.html>) show Australia is on track to exceed its 2030 target by 16 million tonnes (including past overachievement).

For Official Use Only

The Government's Climate Solutions Package is a \$3.5 billion investment which maps out how Australia will achieve its 2030 target. The Package includes a \$2 billion Climate Solutions Fund to build on the success of the Emissions Reduction Fund and continue the investment in low-cost abatement.

The Climate Solutions Package is supporting Australia's low emissions future through significant investments in energy infrastructure, such as the expansion of the Snowy Mountains Hydro Scheme, a range of new energy efficiency measures for homes and businesses and the development of a National Electric Vehicle Strategy to ensure the transition to electric vehicles is planned and managed.

To deliver emissions reduction policy objectives, the Government is developing a long-term emissions reduction strategy and Technology Investment Roadmap to support Australia's transition to a lower emissions economy and ensure technology investments provide the right support at the right time along the innovation chain.

The long-term emissions reduction strategy will have a technology focussed approach, underpinned by the investment signals outlined in the Technology Investment Roadmap. The strategy will also bring together the positive climate change elements of other processes and strategies underway across government to ensure a consolidated national approach in the transition to a lower emissions economy.

Since 2011, the Commonwealth has also made major investments in Australia's clean energy industry through the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) and the Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC). [Investment in clean energy and low emissions technologies, to December 2019, total over \\$9.17 billion funding over 760 projects. The Australian Government has invested \\$10.4 billion into more than 670 clean energy projects with a total project value in excess of \\$35 billion. These investments include the largest pumped hydro scheme in the southern hemisphere, Snowy 2.0, hydrogen demonstration projects, electric vehicle charging networks, and biofuels production.](#)

The Department notes the proposed amendments will have significant impact on Australia's resources sector. In 2019 the resources sector comprised 8.7 per cent of Australia's gross domestic product, 73 per cent of goods exports and employed over 250,000 people. Ongoing development of Australia's mineral and energy resources provides significant opportunity for economic growth and prosperity for the Australian people.

Australia's resources sector is a major contributor to Australia's economy and our energy exports such as LNG are contributing to efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions globally. [Both the CSIRO and the International Energy Agency \(IEA\) have noted in recent reports that coal-to-gas switching can reduce emissions by as much as 50 per cent when producing electricity.](#)

[In its report *The Role of Gas in Today's Energy Transitions* \(2019\), the IEA found that fuel switching has significant CO2 and air quality benefits, and that on average, coal-to-gas switching reduces emissions by 50% when producing electricity and by 33% when providing heat. The IEA also found that coal-to-gas switching avoided more than 500 million tonnes of CO2 emissions over this period 2010-2018.](#)

For Official Use Only

Extending the review and assessment of projects will directly increase the costs associated with project development. In the resources sector, delays to project approval can cost project proponents up to \$16 million a month to retain necessary staff and capital required to commence development once a project has been approved.

One example of the potential negative impact of delays in project approvals relates to offshore oil and gas production activities. Offshore oil and gas activities are currently assessed by NOPSEMA under streamlined regulatory arrangements, and covered by a class of action approval under the EPBC Act. This assessment requires proponents to describe how they will mitigate environmental impacts arising from their activity, including management of greenhouse gas emissions. This bill proposes to require approvals for undertaking emissions-intensive actions, defined as an action that involves mining operations or drilling exploration. This would have implications for all such activities in the onshore and offshore resources sectors and could be a significant disincentive to investment.

The Department also notes the statutory review of the EPBC Act, which commenced in October 2019 and is led by Professor Graeme Samuel AC. Through this Review, Professor Samuel will look at how the EPBC Act has been operating, and any changes needed for Australia to support ecologically sustainable development into the future. I look forward to receiving the EPBC Act Review report in October 2020.

this information and trust it will be of interest to the Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Jo Evans
Deputy Secretary
Climate Change and Energy Innovation Group
[Date]

For Official Use Only



Australian Government
**Department of Industry, Science,
Energy and Resources**

DEPUTY SECRETARY

JO EVANS

Senator the Hon David Fawcett
Chair
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Senator,

Thank you for the opportunity for the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (the Department) to respond to the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee's inquiry into the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Climate Trigger) Bill 2020*.

The Department provides advice and implements a number of Australian Government policies and programs relating to industry, science, energy, resources and emissions reduction. The Department leads the development and coordination of domestic climate change policy, participates in international forums to support effective action on climate change and administers climate change programs to help reduce emissions.

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)* is Australia's primary national environmental protection legislation. According to the first reading of the *Climate Trigger Bill*, the proposed amendment to the *EPBC Act* is put forward to "fulfil Australia's obligations under the Climate Change Conventions".

The Australian government has a comprehensive suite of policies and programs in place to drive emissions reductions across the economy and to fulfil Australia's international commitments under the Paris Agreement. These initiatives encourage innovation and expand the clean energy sector while maintaining a strong economy.

[The Government's emission reduction policies are proven to be working. Australia's emissions projections 2019 \(https://publications.industry.gov.au/publications/climate-change/climate-change/publications/emissions-projections-2019.html\) show Australia is on track to exceed its 2030 target by 16 million tonnes \(including past overachievement\).](https://publications.industry.gov.au/publications/climate-change/climate-change/publications/emissions-projections-2019.html)

As part of the coordinated global effort to address climate change, the Government has set a strong, achievable target to reduce Australia's emissions by 2030 by 26 to 28 per cent below 2005 levels.

For Official Use Only

The \$3.5 billion Climate Solutions Package maps out how Australia will~~The Government's~~ target. The Package includes a \$2 billion Climate Solutions Fund to build on the success of the Emissions Reduction Fund and continue the investment in low-cost abatement.

The Climate Solutions Package is supporting Australia's low emissions future through significant investments in energy infrastructure, such as the expansion of the Snowy Mountains Hydro Scheme, a range of new energy efficiency measures for homes and businesses and the development of a National Electric Vehicle Strategy to ensure the transition to electric vehicles is planned and managed.

To deliver emissions reduction policy objectives, the Government is developing a long-term emissions reduction strategy and Technology Investment Roadmap to support Australia's transition to a lower emissions economy and ensure technology investments provide the right support at the right time along the innovation chain.

The long-term emissions reduction strategy will have a technology focussed approach, underpinned by the investment signals outlined in the Technology Investment Roadmap. The strategy will also bring together the positive climate change elements of other processes and strategies underway across government to ensure a consolidated national approach in the transition to a lower emissions economy.

Since 2011, the Commonwealth has also made major investments in Australia's clean energy industry through the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) and the Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC). Investment in clean energy and low emissions technologies, to December 2019, total over \$9.17 billion funding over 760 projects. The Australian Government has invested \$10.4 billion into more than 670 clean energy projects with a total project value in excess of \$35 billion. These investments include the largest pumped hydro scheme in the southern hemisphere, Snowy 2.0, hydrogen demonstration projects, electric vehicle charging networks, and biofuels production.

The Department notes the proposed amendments will have significant impact on Australia's resources sector. In 2019 the resources sector comprised 8.7 per cent of Australia's gross domestic product, 73 per cent of goods exports and employed over 250,000 people. Ongoing development of Australia's mineral and energy resources sectors provides significant opportunity for economic growth and prosperity for the Australian people.

Australia's resources sector is a major contributor to Australia's economy and our energy exports such as LNG are contributing to efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions globally. Both the CSIRO and the International Energy Agency (IEA) have noted in recent reports that coal-to-gas switching can reduce emissions by as much as 50 per cent when producing electricity.

In its report *The Role of Gas in Today's Energy Transitions* (2019), the IEA found that fuel switching has significant CO2 and air quality benefits, and that on average, coal-to-gas switching reduces emissions by 50% when producing electricity and by 33% when providing heat. The IEA also found that coal-to-gas switching avoided more than 500 million tonnes of CO2 emissions over this period 2010-2018.

For Official Use Only

Extending the review and assessment of projects will directly increase the costs associated with project development. In the resources sector, delays to project approval can cost project proponents up to \$16 million a month to retain necessary staff and capital required to commence development once a project has been approved.

One example of the potential negative impact of delays in project approvals relates to offshore oil and gas production activities. Offshore oil and gas activities are currently assessed by NOPSEMA under streamlined regulatory arrangements, and covered by a class of action approval under the EPBC Act. This assessment requires proponents to describe how they will mitigate environmental impacts arising from their activity, including management of greenhouse gas emissions. This bill proposes to require approvals for undertaking emissions-intensive actions, defined as an action that involves mining operations or drilling exploration. This would have implications for all such activities in the onshore and offshore resources sectors and could be a significant disincentive to investment.

The Department also notes the second independent review of the EPBC Act is currently and is due to report to the Minister for the Environment by the end of October 2020. The review's Interim Report is due in June. The outcomes of the review are expected to be relevant to the Committee in its consideration of the Climate Trigger Bill 2020.
your consideration of this information and trust it will be of interest to the Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Jo Evans
Deputy Secretary
Climate Change and Energy Innovation Group

[Date]

s22

From: Bennett, Helen
Sent: Tuesday, 19 May 2020 5:49 PM
To: s22 Trotman, Paul
Cc: Quinn, Daniel; Johnston, Chris; s22
Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE by noon tomorrow 20 May: Department's response to Climate Trigger Bill Inquiry [SEC=PROTECTED, DLM=Sensitive:Cabinet]

Thanks s22 – this is fine by me.

Regards

Helen

Helen Bennett
Head of Emissions Reduction Division

s22

Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources | www.industry.gov.au



The department acknowledges the traditional owners of the country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to them and their cultures and to the elders past and present.

PROTECTED Sensitive: Cabinet

From: s22
Sent: Tuesday, 19 May 2020 5:23 PM
To: Trotman, Paul ; Bennett, Helen
Cc: Quinn, Daniel ; Johnston, Chris ; s22
Subject: FOR CLEARANCE by noon tomorrow 20 May: Department's response to Climate Trigger Bill Inquiry [SEC=PROTECTED, DLM=Sensitive:Cabinet]

Hi Helen and Paul

We have added some text to the draft Climate Trigger inquiry response letter attached, in response to s22 and s22 feedback.

We talked to DAWE's EPBC review secretariat and they confirmed they will be providing a letter in response to the bill as well. We have added a paragraph to our letter referring to the review.

The EPBC review secretariat highlighted the importance of avoiding text that could be perceived as pre-empting the results of the review.

Subject to your views, our plan is to send this letter to the MOs by noon tomorrow to get their final views and then send it to Jo for signature.

Paul, if you have any suggested additions to the letter in response to s22 comments below, please feel free to add them.

Please send us your comments if possible by noon tomorrow to ensure we meet the 21 May deadline.

Many thanks

s22

Pages 2-4 of Document 10 contains duplicate information and therefore has been redacted as irrelevant under section 22 of the FOI Act

s22

From: Quinn, Daniel
Sent: Wednesday, 20 May 2020 11:23 AM
To: Trotman, Paul
Cc: s22
Subject: Correspondence - DISER response to Senate Standing Committees on Environ.._
[DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]
Attachments: Correspondence - DISER response to Senate Standing Committees on Environ.._.docx
Categories: Actioned

Hi Paul,

As discussed, I've added a final paragraph to address s22 comment.

Thanks
Dan

For Official Use Only

For Official Use Only



Australian Government
**Department of Industry, Science,
Energy and Resources**

DEPUTY SECRETARY

JO EVANS

Senator the Hon David Fawcett
Chair
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Senator,

Thank you for the opportunity for the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (the Department) to respond to the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee's inquiry into the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Climate Trigger) Bill 2020*.

The Department provides advice and implements a number of Australian Government policies and programs relating to industry, science, energy, resources and emissions reduction. The Department leads the development and coordination of domestic climate change policy, participates in international forums to support effective action on climate change and administers climate change programs to help reduce emissions.

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)* is Australia's primary national environmental protection legislation. According to the first reading of the *Climate Trigger Bill*, the proposed amendment to the *EPBC Act* is put forward to "fulfil Australia's obligations under the Climate Change Conventions".

The Australian government has a comprehensive suite of policies and programs in place to drive emissions reductions across the economy and to fulfil Australia's international commitments under the Paris Agreement. These initiatives encourage innovation and expand the clean energy sector while maintaining a strong economy.

[The Government's emission reduction policies are proven to be working. Australia's emissions projections 2019 \(https://publications.industry.gov.au/publications/climate-change/climate-change/publications/emissions-projections-2019.html\) show Australia is on track to exceed its 2030 target by 16 million tonnes \(including past overachievement\).](https://publications.industry.gov.au/publications/climate-change/climate-change/publications/emissions-projections-2019.html)

As part of the coordinated global effort to address climate change, the Government has set a strong, achievable target to reduce Australia's emissions by 2030 by 26 to 28 per cent below 2005 levels.

For Official Use Only

The \$3.5 billion Climate Solutions Package maps out how Australia will~~The Government's~~ target. The Package includes a \$2 billion Climate Solutions Fund to build on the success of the Emissions Reduction Fund and continue the investment in low-cost abatement.

The Climate Solutions Package is supporting Australia's low emissions future through significant investments in energy infrastructure, such as the expansion of the Snowy Mountains Hydro Scheme, a range of new energy efficiency measures for homes and businesses and the development of a National Electric Vehicle Strategy to ensure the transition to electric vehicles is planned and managed.

To deliver emissions reduction policy objectives, the Government is developing a long-term emissions reduction strategy and Technology Investment Roadmap to support Australia's transition to a lower emissions economy and ensure technology investments provide the right support at the right time along the innovation chain.

The long-term emissions reduction strategy will have a technology focussed approach, underpinned by the investment signals outlined in the Technology Investment Roadmap. The strategy will also bring together the positive climate change elements of other processes and strategies underway across government to ensure a consolidated national approach in the transition to a lower emissions economy.

Since 2011, the Commonwealth has also made major investments in Australia's clean energy industry through the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) and the Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC). Investment in clean energy and low emissions technologies, to December 2019, total over \$9.17 billion funding over 760 projects. The Australian Government has invested \$10.4 billion into more than 670 clean energy projects with a total project value in excess of \$35 billion. These investments include the largest pumped hydro scheme in the southern hemisphere, Snowy 2.0, hydrogen demonstration projects, electric vehicle charging networks, and biofuels production.

The Department notes the proposed amendments will have significant impact on Australia's resources sector. In 2019 the resources sector comprised 8.7 per cent of Australia's gross domestic product, 73 per cent of goods exports and employed over 250,000 people. Ongoing development of Australia's mineral and energy resources sectors provides significant opportunity for economic growth and prosperity for the Australian people.

Australia's resources sector is a major contributor to Australia's economy and our energy exports such as LNG are contributing to efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions globally. Both the CSIRO and the International Energy Agency (IEA) have noted in recent reports that coal-to-gas switching can reduce emissions by as much as 50 per cent when producing electricity.

In its report *The Role of Gas in Today's Energy Transitions* (2019), the IEA found that fuel switching has significant CO2 and air quality benefits, and that on average, coal-to-gas switching reduces emissions by 50% when producing electricity and by 33% when providing heat. The IEA also found that coal-to-gas switching avoided more than 500 million tonnes of CO2 emissions over this period 2010-2018.

For Official Use Only

Extending the review and assessment of projects will directly increase the costs associated with project development. In the resources sector, delays to project approval can cost project proponents up to \$16 million a month to retain necessary staff and capital required to commence development once a project has been approved.

One example of the potential negative impact of delays in project approvals relates to offshore oil and gas production activities. Offshore oil and gas activities are currently assessed by NOPSEMA under streamlined regulatory arrangements, and covered by a class of action approval under the EPBC Act. This assessment requires proponents to describe how they will mitigate environmental impacts arising from their activity, including management of greenhouse gas emissions. This bill proposes to require approvals for undertaking emissions-intensive actions, defined as an action that involves mining operations or drilling exploration. This would have implications for all such activities in the onshore and offshore resources sectors and could be a significant disincentive to investment.

The Department also notes the second independent review of the EPBC Act is currently and is due to report to the Minister for the Environment by the end of October 2020. The review's Interim Report is due in June. The outcomes of the review are expected to be relevant to the Committee in its consideration of the Climate Trigger Bill 2020. the implementation of a climate trigger on the emission-intensive actions that are defined in the bill will impose an additional regulatory burden on resource and agricultural industries and is contrary to government policy to reduce regulation where practical.

I appreciate your consideration of this information and trust it will be of interest to the Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Jo Evans
Deputy Secretary
Climate Change and Energy Innovation Group

[Date]

s22

From: Johnston, Chris
Sent: Wednesday, 20 May 2020 12:49 PM
To: s22 Bennett, Helen
Cc: s22
Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE by noon tomorrow 20 May: Department's response to Climate Trigger Bill Inquiry [SEC=PROTECTED, DLM=Sensitive:Cabinet]

I'll send it to them now
thanks
Chris

PROTECTED Sensitive: Cabinet

From: s22
Sent: Wednesday, 20 May 2020 12:21 PM
To: Bennett, Helen ; Johnston, Chris
Cc: s22
Subject: FW: FOR CLEARANCE by noon tomorrow 20 May: Department's response to Climate Trigger Bill Inquiry [SEC=PROTECTED, DLM=Sensitive:Cabinet]

Hi Helen and Chris

I have moved the paragraph added by Paul to be the second last.
I believe it is preferable to close with the reference to the EPBC act review.

Please let me know if you're happy with this.

Chris will you send it to the MOs or would you like me to?

Thanks

s22

PROTECTED Sensitive: Cabinet

From: Trotman, Paul
Sent: Wednesday, 20 May 2020 11:34 AM
To: s22 [@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au); Bennett, Helen s22 [@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)
Cc: Quinn, Daniel s22 [@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au); Johnston, Chris s22 [@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au); s22 [@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au); s22 [@industry.gov.au](mailto:s22@industry.gov.au)
Subject: RE: FOR CLEARANCE by noon tomorrow 20 May: Department's response to Climate Trigger Bill Inquiry [SEC=PROTECTED, DLM=Sensitive:Cabinet]

Hi s22 /Helen

We have added one final paragraph s47C


Thanks

Paul

Paul Trotman
Head of Division
Resources Division
Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources
Industry House, Level 5, 10 Binara Street, Canberra City ACT 2601
GPO Box 9839, Canberra ACT 2601

s22

Internet: <http://www.industry.gov.au>
ABN 74 599 608 295

 *The department acknowledges the traditional owners of the country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respect to them and their cultures and to the elders past, present and emerging*

s22

Pages 3-5 of Document 13 contains duplicate information and therefore has been redacted as irrelevant under section 22 of the FOI Act

For Official Use Only



Australian Government
**Department of Industry, Science,
Energy and Resources**

DEPUTY SECRETARY

JO EVANS

Senator the Hon David Fawcett
Chair
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Senator,

Thank you for the opportunity for the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (the Department) to respond to the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee's inquiry into the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Climate Trigger) Bill 2020*.

The Department provides advice and implements a number of Australian Government policies and programs relating to industry, science, energy, resources and emissions reduction. The Department leads the development and coordination of domestic climate change policy, participates in international forums to support effective action on climate change and administers climate change programs to help reduce emissions.

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)* is Australia's primary national environmental protection legislation. According to the first reading of the *Climate Trigger Bill*, the proposed amendment to the *EPBC Act* is put forward to "fulfil Australia's obligations under the Climate Change Conventions".

The Australian government has a comprehensive suite of policies and programs in place to drive emissions reductions across the economy and to fulfil Australia's international commitments under the Paris Agreement. These initiatives encourage innovation and expand the clean energy sector while maintaining a strong economy.

[The Government's emission reduction policies are proven to be working. Australia's emissions projections 2019 \(https://publications.industry.gov.au/publications/climate-change/climate-change/publications/emissions-projections-2019.html\) show Australia is on track to exceed its 2030 target by 16 million tonnes \(including past overachievement\).](https://publications.industry.gov.au/publications/climate-change/climate-change/publications/emissions-projections-2019.html)

As part of the coordinated global effort to address climate change, the Government has set a strong, achievable target to reduce Australia's emissions by 2030 by 26 to 28 per cent below 2005 levels.

For Official Use Only

The \$3.5 billion Climate Solutions Package maps out how Australia will~~The Government's~~ target. The Package includes a \$2 billion Climate Solutions Fund to build on the success of the Emissions Reduction Fund and continue the investment in low-cost abatement.

The Climate Solutions Package is supporting Australia's low emissions future through significant investments in energy infrastructure, such as the expansion of the Snowy Mountains Hydro Scheme, a range of new energy efficiency measures for homes and businesses and the development of a National Electric Vehicle Strategy to ensure the transition to electric vehicles is planned and managed.

To deliver emissions reduction policy objectives, the Government is developing a long-term emissions reduction strategy and Technology Investment Roadmap to support Australia's transition to a lower emissions economy and ensure technology investments provide the right support at the right time along the innovation chain.

The long-term emissions reduction strategy will have a technology focussed approach, underpinned by the investment signals outlined in the Technology Investment Roadmap. The strategy will also bring together the positive climate change elements of other processes and strategies underway across government to ensure a consolidated national approach in the transition to a lower emissions economy.

Since 2011, the Commonwealth has also made major investments in Australia's clean energy industry through the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) and the Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC). Investment in clean energy and low emissions technologies, to December 2019, total over \$9.17 billion funding over 760 projects. The Australian Government has invested \$10.4 billion into more than 670 clean energy projects with a total project value in excess of \$35 billion. These investments include the largest pumped hydro scheme in the southern hemisphere, Snowy 2.0, hydrogen demonstration projects, electric vehicle charging networks, and biofuels production.

The Department notes the proposed amendments will have significant impact on Australia's resources sector. In 2019 the resources sector comprised 8.7 per cent of Australia's gross domestic product, 73 per cent of goods exports and employed over 250,000 people. Ongoing development of Australia's mineral and energy resources sectors provides significant opportunity for economic growth and prosperity for the Australian people.

Australia's resources sector is a major contributor to Australia's economy and our energy exports such as LNG are contributing to efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions globally. Both the CSIRO and the International Energy Agency (IEA) have noted in recent reports that coal-to-gas switching can reduce emissions by as much as 50 per cent when producing electricity.

In its report *The Role of Gas in Today's Energy Transitions* (2019), the IEA found that fuel switching has significant CO2 and air quality benefits, and that on average, coal-to-gas switching reduces emissions by 50% when producing electricity and by 33% when providing heat. The IEA also found that coal-to-gas switching avoided more than 500 million tonnes of CO2 emissions over this period 2010-2018.

For Official Use Only

Extending the review and assessment of projects will directly increase the costs associated with project development. In the resources sector, delays to project approval can cost project proponents up to \$16 million a month to retain necessary staff and capital required to commence development once a project has been approved.

One example of the potential negative impact of delays in project approvals relates to offshore oil and gas production activities. Offshore oil and gas activities are currently assessed by NOPSEMA under streamlined regulatory arrangements, and covered by a class of action approval under the EPBC Act. This assessment requires proponents to describe how they will mitigate environmental impacts arising from their activity, including management of greenhouse gas emissions. This bill proposes to require approvals for undertaking emissions-intensive actions, defined as an action that involves mining operations or drilling exploration. This would have implications for all such activities in the onshore and offshore resources sectors and could be a significant disincentive to investment.

In addition, the implementation of a climate trigger on the emission-intensive actions that are defined in the bill will impose an additional regulatory burden on resource and agricultural industries and is contrary to government policy to reduce regulation where practical.

I appreciate your consideration of this information and trust it will be of interest to the Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Jo Evans
Deputy Secretary
Climate Change and Energy Innovation Group
[Date]

For Official Use Only



Australian Government
**Department of Industry, Science,
Energy and Resources**

DEPUTY SECRETARY

JO EVANS

Senator the Hon David Fawcett
Chair
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Senator,

Thank you for the opportunity for the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (the Department) to respond to the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee's inquiry into the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Climate Trigger) Bill 2020*.

The Department provides advice and implements a number of Australian Government policies and programs relating to industry, science, energy, resources and emissions reduction. The Department leads the development and coordination of domestic climate change policy, participates in international forums to support effective action on climate change and administers climate change programs to help reduce emissions.

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)* is Australia's primary national environmental protection legislation. According to the first reading of the *Climate Trigger Bill*, the proposed amendment to the *EPBC Act* is put forward to "fulfil Australia's obligations under the Climate Change Conventions".

The Australian government has a comprehensive suite of policies and programs in place to drive emissions reductions across the economy and to fulfil Australia's international commitments under the Paris Agreement. These initiatives encourage innovation and expand the clean energy sector while maintaining a strong economy.

[The Government's emission reduction policies are proven to be working. Australia's emissions projections 2019 \(https://publications.industry.gov.au/publications/climate-change/climate-change/publications/emissions-projections-2019.html\) show Australia is on track to exceed its 2030 target by 16 million tonnes \(including past overachievement\).](https://publications.industry.gov.au/publications/climate-change/climate-change/publications/emissions-projections-2019.html)

As part of the coordinated global effort to address climate change, the Government has set a strong, achievable target to reduce Australia's emissions by 2030 by 26 to 28 per cent below 2005 levels.

For Official Use Only

~~The \$3.5 billion Climate Solutions Package maps out how Australia will~~~~The Government's emission reduction policies are working. *Australia's emissions projections 2019* (<https://publications.industry.gov.au/publications/climate-change/climate-change/publications/emissions-projections-2019.html>) show Australia is on track to exceed its 2030 target by 16 million tonnes (including past overachievement).~~

Formatted: Space After: 0 pt, Add space between paragraphs of the same style

~~The Government's Climate Solutions Package is a \$3.5 billion investment which maps out how Australia will~~ achieve its 2030 target. The Package includes a \$2 billion Climate Solutions Fund to build on the success of the Emissions Reduction Fund and continue the investment in low-cost abatement.

The Climate Solutions Package is supporting Australia's low emissions future through significant investments in energy infrastructure, such as the expansion of the Snowy Mountains Hydro Scheme, a range of new energy efficiency measures for homes and businesses and the development of a National Electric Vehicle Strategy to ensure the transition to electric vehicles is planned and managed.

To deliver emissions reduction policy objectives, the Government is developing a long-term emissions reduction strategy and Technology Investment Roadmap to support Australia's transition to a lower emissions economy and ensure technology investments provide the right support at the right time along the innovation chain.

The long-term emissions reduction strategy will have a technology focussed approach, underpinned by the investment signals outlined in the Technology Investment Roadmap. The strategy will also bring together the positive climate change elements of other processes and strategies underway across government to ensure a consolidated national approach in the transition to a lower emissions economy.

Since 2011, the Commonwealth has also made major investments in Australia's clean energy industry through the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) and the Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC). [Investment in clean energy and low emissions technologies, to December 2019, total over \\$9.17 billion funding over 760 projects. The Australian Government has invested \\$10.4 billion into more than 670 clean energy projects with a total project value in excess of \\$35 billion. These investments include the largest pumped hydro scheme in the southern hemisphere, Snowy 2.0, hydrogen demonstration projects, electric vehicle charging networks, and biofuels production.](#)

The Department notes the proposed amendments will have significant impact on Australia's resources sector. In 2019 the resources sector comprised 8.7 per cent of Australia's gross domestic product, 73 per cent of goods exports and employed over 250,000 people. Ongoing development of Australia's mineral and energy resources [sectors](#) provides significant opportunity for economic growth and prosperity for the Australian people.

Australia's resources sector is a major contributor to Australia's economy and our energy exports such as LNG are contributing to efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions globally. [Both the CSIRO and the International Energy Agency \(IEA\) have noted in recent reports that coal-to-gas switching can reduce emissions by as much as 50 per cent when producing electricity.](#)

For Official Use Only

In its report *The Role of Gas in Today's Energy Transitions* (2019), the IEA found that fuel switching has significant CO₂ and air quality benefits, and that on average, coal-to-gas switching reduces emissions by 50% when producing electricity and by 33% when providing heat. The IEA also found that coal-to-gas switching avoided more than 500 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions over this period 2010-2018.

Australia's resource projects are rigorously assessed under existing state and Commonwealth law. In addition, direct greenhouse gas emissions for onshore resources are already considered as part of state and territory environmental approval processes.

Extending the review and assessment of projects will directly increase the costs associated with project development. In the resources sector, delays to project approval can cost project proponents up to \$16 million a month to retain necessary staff and capital required to commence development once a project has been approved.

One example of the potential negative impact of delays in project approvals relates to offshore oil and gas production activities. Offshore oil and gas activities are currently assessed by NOPSEMA under streamlined regulatory arrangements, and covered by a class of action approval under the EPBC Act. This assessment requires proponents to describe how they will mitigate environmental impacts arising from their activity, including management of greenhouse gas emissions. This bill proposes to require approvals for undertaking emissions-intensive actions, defined as an action that involves mining operations or drilling exploration. This would have implications for all such activities in the onshore and offshore resources sectors and could be a significant disincentive to investment.

In addition, the implementation of a climate trigger on the emission-intensive actions that are defined in the bill will impose an additional regulatory burden on resource and agricultural industries and is contrary to government policy to reduce regulation where practical.

The Department also notes the second independent review of the EPBC Act is currently underway and is due to report to the Minister for the Environment by the end of October 2020. The review's Interim Report is due in June. The outcomes of the review are expected to be relevant to the Committee in its consideration of the Climate Trigger Bill 2020.

Formatted: Not Highlight

Formatted: Font: Italic

I appreciate your consideration of this information and trust it will be of interest to the Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Jo Evans
Deputy Secretary
Climate Change and Energy Innovation Group

[Date]

s22

From: s22
Sent: Wednesday, 20 May 2020 2:34 PM
To: s22
Subject: RE: Department's submission to Climate Trigger Bill Inquiry [SEC=PROTECTED, DLM=Sensitive:Cabinet]

Security Classification: PROTECTED Sensitive: Cabinet

Do you think we will make the deadline? Or would you like me to chase this up?

s22

PROTECTED Sensitive: Cabinet

From: s22
Sent: Tuesday, 19 May 2020 4:54 PM
To: Johnston, Chris s22 @industry.gov.au>
Cc: s22 @industry.gov.au>; s22 @industry.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Department's submission to Climate Trigger Bill Inquiry [SEC=PROTECTED, DLM=Sensitive:Cabinet]

Hi Chris

Please see the most recent draft Climate Trigger inquiry response saved [here](#).

We talked to DAWE and they confirmed they will be providing a letter in response to the bill as well.

s47C

We have added a paragraph referring to the review at the end of the letter.

We have asked for an extension to the secretariat until 27 May but haven't heard back from them so we have to assume for the time being that the 21 May due date remains. Will follow up with them tomorrow.

Please let me know if you have any suggestions for the letter.

Cheers

s22

s22

Pages 2-4 of Document 16 contains duplicate information and therefore has been redacted as irrelevant under section 22 of the FOI Act

s22

From: Evans, Jo
Sent: Thursday, 21 May 2020 3:00 PM
To: s22
Subject: RE: Extension for submissions to the Senate inquiry into the Climate Trigger Bill 2020 [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Ok ta

For Official Use Only

From: s22
Sent: Thursday, 21 May 2020 2:59 PM
To: Evans, Jo
Subject: FW: Extension for submissions to the Senate inquiry into the Climate Trigger Bill 2020 [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Just FYI – see highlighted sentence below.

For Official Use Only

From: s22
Sent: Thursday, 21 May 2020 2:46 PM
To: Johnston, Chris s22 <s22@industry.gov.au>
Cc: s22 <s22@industry.gov.au>; s22 <s22@industry.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Extension for submissions to the Senate inquiry into the Climate Trigger Bill 2020 [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Hi all,

I did a bit of investigating with the DLOs in Minister Taylor and Minister Pitts Office and it's not likely we will have feedback from the MO's until next week. The DLO's will chase up feedback so it is provided to us by COB Monday.

Thanks,

s22

For Official Use Only

From: Johnston, Chris
Sent: Thursday, 21 May 2020 1:57 PM
To: s22 <s22@industry.gov.au>
Cc: s22 <s22@industry.gov.au>; s22 <s22@industry.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Extension for submissions to the Senate inquiry into the Climate Trigger Bill 2020 [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

s22

Thanks, no, I've heard nothing from the MOs so thanks for getting the extensions s22 - see the extension so Jo won't need to send this to the committee today as originally planned.

Chris

For Official Use Only

From: s22
Sent: Thursday, 21 May 2020 1:46 PM
To: Johnston, Chris s22 <s22@industry.gov.au>
Cc: s22 <s22@industry.gov.au>

Subject: FW: Extension for submissions to the Senate inquiry into the Climate Trigger Bill 2020 [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Hi Chris

Please note.

I believe we haven't received comments back from the MOs (maybe you have?) so this extension is welcomed.

Thanks s22

Cheers

s22

For Official Use Only
For Official Use Only

From: Committee, EC (SEN) s22 @aph.gov.au]

Sent: Thursday, 21 May 2020 1:38 PM

To: s22 @industry.gov.au>

Cc: s22 @aph.gov.au>; Committee, EC (SEN) s22 @aph.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Extension for submissions to the Senate inquiry into the Climate Trigger Bill 2020 [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Good afternoon s22

On behalf of the committee, we are pleased to grant the Department a short extension to submit to the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Climate Trigger) Bill 2020 inquiry.

Please have the submission to the secretariat by cob on Wednesday 27 May.

Kind regards

s22

| Senior Research Officer

Senate Environment and Communications Committee

Committee Office | Department of the Senate

Phone s22

www.aph.gov.au/senate

 Visit our Committee page

From: s22 @industry.gov.au]

Sent: Wednesday, 20 May 2020 3:01 PM

To: Committee, EC (SEN)

Cc: s22

Subject: RE: Extension for submissions to the Senate inquiry into the Climate Trigger Bill 2020 [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Good afternoon,

I am just following up on the below email regarding an extension for a Departmental submission to the Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications regarding the inquiry into the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Climate Trigger) Bill 2020.

Could you please advise on if an extension for submissions is possible? And if so, how we could apply for this?

I tried to call the number registered to the Senate Committee secretariat on the website but I was advised that no one was in the office and I needed to follow up via email. Please advise if there is a phone number I could contact you on to discuss the request further.

Thanks again,
s22

For Official Use Only

From: s22
Sent: Tuesday, 19 May 2020 3:12 PM
To: s22 <s22@aph.gov.au>
Cc: s22 <s22@industry.gov.au>
Subject: Extension for submissions to the Senate inquiry into the Climate Trigger Bill 2020 [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Good afternoon,

DISER intends on submitting a letter to the Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications regarding the inquiry into the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Climate Trigger) Bill 2020. However, we have experienced delays in developing this response due to the need to prioritise the Department-wide response to COVID-19 and the unforeseen impacts of widespread staff redeployment to assist with the APS efforts to manage the outbreak of the disease.

Could you please advise if it is possible to apply for an extension to provide a submission to the Senate inquiry into the Climate Trigger Bill 2020? If this is possible, what is the process for doing this?

We believe we will require an extension of one week (to COB 27 May) to provide a submission to the Senate Committee.

Please feel free to give me a call if you wish to discuss further.

Thank you for your assistance with this,
s22

A/g Assistant Manager
Climate Mitigation Policy and Risk
Climate Change Policy
Climate Change Division

s22

Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources | www.industry.gov.au

For Official Use Only

s22

From: s22
Sent: Monday, 25 May 2020 11:07 AM
To: s22
Subject: RE: Department's submission to Climate Trigger Bill Inquiry [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Security Classification:
For Official Use Only

I will call s22 after lunch if we don't hear anything.

s22

For Official Use Only

From: s22
Sent: Monday, 25 May 2020 10:59 AM
To: Johnston, Chris s22 @industry.gov.au>
Cc: s22 @industry.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Department's submission to Climate Trigger Bill Inquiry [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Hi Chris

Min Pitt's MO is happy with the letter. Still waiting for clearance from Min Taylor's MO.
This is due on 27 May.

Thanks

s22

For Official Use Only

From: DLO Resources
Sent: Thursday, 21 May 2020 5:22 PM
To: s22 @industry.gov.au>; DLO Taylor s22 @industry.gov.au>; DLO Resources s22 @industry.gov.au>
Cc: s22 @industry.gov.au>; s22 @industry.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Department's submission to Climate Trigger Bill Inquiry [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Hi s22

I have been in contact with s22 and has confirmed that both s22 and the Chief of Staff are happy with the letter – no changes from our end.

s22

s22 | Departmental Liaison Officer
Office of the Hon Keith Pitt MP
Minister for Resources, Water and Northern Australia
s22

For Official Use Only

Pages 2-5 of Document 18 contain information exempt under section 47C, and duplicate information and therefore has been redacted as irrelevant under section 22 of the FOI Act

s22

From: s22
Sent: Monday, 25 May 2020 2:04 PM
To: s22 Johnston, Chris
Subject: RE: Department's submission to Climate Trigger Bill Inquiry [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Security Classification:
For Official Use Only

Hi all,

s22 from the EPBC Review Secretariat advised that DAWE have already provided their submission to the Inquiry. s22 advised that their submission pointed to the EPBC review as the mechanism that should be used to make adjustments to the Act.

I'll keep trying to track down a copy of the submission this afternoon (s22 isn't working but kindly answered my call).

s22

For Official Use Only

From: s22
Sent: Monday, 25 May 2020 1:55 PM
To: Johnston, Chris s22 @industry.gov.au>
Cc: s22 @industry.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Department's submission to Climate Trigger Bill Inquiry [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Yes they were going to make a submission. But since the due date was last Friday they may have submitted it already.

s22 could you please check the status of this (as you suggested earlier 😊)

For Official Use Only

From: Johnston, Chris
Sent: Monday, 25 May 2020 1:53 PM
To: s22 @industry.gov.au>
Cc: s22 @industry.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Department's submission to Climate Trigger Bill Inquiry [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

I'm just emailing Jo but could you confirm that DAWE is going to make a submission? If so I'll propose to Jo we'll send them our draft to incorporate into theirs

Chris

For Official Use Only

From: s22
Sent: Monday, 25 May 2020 1:04 PM
To: Johnston, Chris s22 n@industry.gov.au>
Cc: s22 @industry.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Department's submission to Climate Trigger Bill Inquiry [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Hi Chris

Is there anything we need to do with this? We at least have to inform the secretariat who granted the extension that we won't be responding after all.

Is this up to environment now or should we be involved?

Thanks

s22

s22

Pages 3-5 of Document 19 contains duplicate information and therefore has been redacted as irrelevant under section 22 of the FOI Act

Document 20 is removed as it has been determined to be outside the scope of the FOI request

s22

From: Johnston, Chris
Sent: Monday, 25 May 2020 4:40 PM
To: s22
Cc: s22 DLO Resources; Bennett, Helen; Trotman, Paul; DLO Taylor; Johnson, Edwina; Evans, Jo; s22
Subject: RE: Department's submission to Climate Trigger Bill Inquiry [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]
Attachments: EC20-000131 DAWE submission.pdf

Security Classification: For Official Use Only

s22

s47C

regards
Chris

s22

Pages 2-4 of Document 21 contain duplicate information and therefore has been redacted as irrelevant under section 22 of the FOI Act

s22

From: Johnston, Chris
Sent: Thursday, 28 May 2020 4:39 PM
To: s22
Subject: RE: Department's submission to Climate Trigger Bill Inquiry [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Security Classification:
 For Official Use Only

Hi s22

We've been contacted by the Committee about our submission – do you have clearance yet?

Chris

For Official Use Only

From: s22
Sent: Tuesday, 26 May 2020 4:37 PM
To: Johnston, Chris
Subject: RE: Department's submission to Climate Trigger Bill Inquiry [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Keen to make a submission. Clearing it through the CoS – hopefully tonight or first thing tomorrow.

s22

Adviser
 Office of the Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction | The Hon Angus Taylor MP

s22

For Official Use Only

From: Johnston, Chris
Sent: Tuesday, 26 May 2020 4:36 PM
To: s22 <s22@energy.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Department's submission to Climate Trigger Bill Inquiry [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Hi s22

Are there any updates on how to proceed with this?

Chris

For Official Use Only

From: s22
Sent: Monday, 25 May 2020 6:44 PM
To: Johnston, Chris s22 <s22@industry.gov.au>
Cc: s22 <s22@industry.gov.au>; DLO Resources s22 <s22@industry.gov.au>; Bennett, Helen s22 <s22@industry.gov.au>; Trotman, Paul s22 <s22@industry.gov.au>; DLO Taylor s22 <s22@industry.gov.au>; Johnson, Edwina s22 <s22@industry.gov.au>; Evans, Jo s22 <s22@industry.gov.au>; s22 <s22@industry.gov.au>; s22 <s22@industry.gov.au>
Subject: Re: Department's submission to Climate Trigger Bill Inquiry [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Thanks Chris s47C

Will revert tomorrow.

Cheers

s22

Adviser

s22

On 25 May 2020, at 4:40 pm, Johnston, Chris <s22

wrote:

s22

DAWE has lodged a submission to the inquiry (see attached) but as you'll see it doesn't engage in the bill itself, just notes the EPBC review will consider this matter. On this basis I think our submission would still add value, but welcome your thoughts given the DAWE submission has been lodged.

regards

Chris

For Official Use Only

From: s22**Sent:** Monday, 25 May 2020 12:14 PM**To:** Johnston, Chris s22 <s22@industry.gov.au>**Cc:** s22 <s22@industry.gov.au>; DLO Resources s22 <s22@industry.gov.au>;Bennett, Helen s22 <s22@industry.gov.au>; Trotman, Paul s22 <s22@industry.gov.au>; DLO Taylors22 <s22@industry.gov.au>; Johnson, Edwina s22 <s22@industry.gov.au>; Evans, Jos22 <s22@industry.gov.au>; s22 <s22@industry.gov.au>; s22<s22@industry.gov.au>; s22 <s22@protected.environment.gov.au>;s22 <s22@protected.environment.gov.au>**Subject:** RE: Department's submission to Climate Trigger Bill Inquiry [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Hi Chris

As discussed just now, I've spoken to Minister Pitt's and Ley's offices to confirm agreement to a single, whole-of-government submission to this inquiry.

s47C

If there's any questions please don't hesitate to call.

Regards

s22

Adviser

Office of the Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction | The Hon Angus Taylor MP

s22

For Official Use Only

From: Johnston, Chris**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 May 2020 12:54 PM**To:** s22 <s22@industry.gov.au>; s22 <s22@energy.gov.au>**Cc:** s22 <s22@industry.gov.au>; DLO Resources s22 <s22@industry.gov.au>;

Bennett, Helen s22 <industry.gov.au>; Trotman, Paul s22 <@industry.gov.au>; DLO Taylor s22 <@industry.gov.au>; Johnson, Edwina s22 <@industry.gov.au>; Evans, Jo s22 <@industry.gov.au>; s22 <@industry.gov.au>

Subject: RE: Department's submission to Climate Trigger Bill Inquiry [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

s22

FYI, we have redrafted the submission to incorporate your comments and some input from DAWE on the EPBC Act review. The updated letter is attached, which we are due to submit tomorrow.

Regards
Chris

Chris Johnston
General Manager
Climate Change Policy Branch
Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources
s22

s22

Pages 4-5 of Document 22 contains duplicate information and therefore has been redacted as irrelevant under section 22 of the FOI Act

Document 23 is exempt in full under section 47C of the FOI Act

s22

From: s22
Sent: Thursday, 28 May 2020 6:13 PM
To: Bennett, Helen
Cc: Johnston, Chris; s22
Subject: RE: Correspondence - DISER response to Senate Standing Committees on Environ.._ (002) (002) [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]
Attachments: Correspondence - DISER response to Senate Standing Committees on Environ....docx

Hi Helen

Please see attached Climate Trigger Bill letter for your clearance before Jo's clearance and signing tomorrow. I agree with Chris it strays outside of our portfolio on the adaptation elements s47C

We will talk to the Committee to let them know this is coming but I note we are already past the due date (this was due at COB yesterday including a 3 business day extension).

Regards,

s22

For Official Use Only

From: Johnston, Chris
Sent: Thursday, 28 May 2020 5:40 PM
To: s22
Cc: s22 ; Johnson, Edwina ; Trotman, Paul ; Quinn, Daniel ; Evans, Jo ; Bennett, Helen ; s22
Subject: FW: Correspondence - DISER response to Senate Standing Committees on Environ.._ (002) (002) [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

s22

s22 has sent back the submission with a number of edits. Could you please look over them to see if there are any sensitivities (it strays outside of our portfolio a bit on the adaptation elements) and then tidy it up for FAS and Jo review tomorrow? We can have a chat in the morning about it. Could you also please let the committee know it is coming and should be there in the next couple of business days or so?

Thanks
 Chris

UNCLASSIFIED

From: s22
Sent: Thursday, 28 May 2020 5:27 PM
To: Johnston, Chris s22 @industry.gov.au>
Subject: FW: Correspondence - DISER response to Senate Standing Committees on Environ.._ (002) (002) [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Hi Chris

Please find attached an amended letter, following input from Minister Ley's office.

If there's any issues etc just give me a call.

Cheers

s22

Adviser

Office of the Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction | The Hon Angus Taylor MP

s22

UNCLASSIFIED

s22

From: Evans, Jo
Sent: Thursday, 28 May 2020 7:28 PM
To: Bennett, Helen
Subject: RE: Correspondence - DISER response to Senate Standing Committees on Environ.._ (002) (002) [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

...that said you still better talk to me tomorrow before I sign in case I missed something.

For Official Use Only

From: Bennett, Helen
Sent: Thursday, 28 May 2020 7:11 PM
To: Evans, Jo
Cc: Johnston, Chris ; s22
Subject: FW: Correspondence - DISER response to Senate Standing Committees on Environ.._ (002) (002) [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Hi Jo

The MO has come back with a number of edits to the Climate Trigger Bill letter. There are a couple of sensitivities which might be best to talk to tomorrow. I've tried to further "tweak" the language in a couple of places (in track).

s22 will talk to the Committee to let them know this is coming but we are already past the due date (this was due at COB yesterday including a 3 business day extension).

Let us know if you are happy to sign (noting we will need to remove track change etc first).

Regards

Helen

For Official Use Only

For Official Use Only



Australian Government
**Department of Industry, Science,
Energy and Resources**

**DEPUTY SECRETARY
JO EVANS**

Senator the Hon David Fawcett
Chair
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Senator

Thank you for the opportunity for the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (the Department) to respond to the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee's inquiry into the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Climate Trigger) Bill 2020*.

The Department provides advice and implements a number of Australian Government policies and programs relating to industry, science, energy, resources and emissions reduction. The Department leads the development and coordination of domestic climate change policy, participates in international forums to support effective action on climate change and administers climate change programs to help reduce emissions.

Executive summary

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)* is Australia's primary national environmental protection legislation. According to the first reading of the *Climate Trigger Bill*, the proposed amendment to the *EPBC Act* is put forward to "fulfil Australia's obligations under the Climate Change Conventions".

The Government has a comprehensive suite of policies and programs in place to drive emissions reductions across the economy and to fulfil Australia's international commitments under the Paris Agreement. These initiatives encourage innovation and expand the clean energy sector while maintaining a strong economy.

The *EPBC Act* is not considered to be the most appropriate mechanism to drive emissions reductions or ensure fulfilment of Australia's international obligations. The Bill's measures are duplicative: activities covered by the Bill are already subject to rigorous assessment and scrutiny by both Commonwealth and state authorities.

Further, the Bill would have a significant impact on key sectors of the Australian economy. The measures contained in the Bill are not consistent with the Government's 'technology not taxes' approach to reducing emissions.

For Official Use Only

Emissions reduction policies

The Government's emission reduction policies are working. *Australia's emissions projections 2019* (<https://publications.industry.gov.au/publications/climate-change/climate-change/publications/emissions-projections-2019.html>) show Australia is on track to exceed its 2030 target by 16 million tonnes (including past overachievement).

As part of the coordinated global effort to address climate change, the Government has set a strong, achievable target to reduce Australia's emissions by 2030 by 26 to 28 per cent below 2005 levels.

Australia's progress towards our 2030 target compares favourably with the progress of similar, commodity-exporting nations like Canada and New Zealand.

The \$3.5 billion Climate Solutions Package maps out how Australia will achieve its 2030 target. The Package includes a \$2 billion Climate Solutions Fund to build on the success of the Emissions Reduction Fund and continue the investment in low-cost abatement.

The Climate Solutions Package is supporting Australia's low emissions future through significant investments in energy infrastructure, such as the expansion of the Snowy Mountains Hydro Scheme, a range of new energy efficiency measures for homes and businesses and the development of a national strategy to support Australians who choose to adopt electric vehicles and address barriers to uptake.

The Government is also developing a Technology Investment Roadmap to bring a strategic and system-wide view to future investments in low emissions technologies. The Government's stated intention is committed to reducing emissions without imposing new costs on households, businesses or the economy. ~~At its core, this~~ The Government's approach technology not taxes.

The Government sees great potential in technologies like hydrogen, carbon capture and storage, soil carbon sequestration and biofuels to reduce emissions in Australia and globally, while strengthening our economy.

The Government has already invested \$10.4 billion into more than 670 clean energy projects with a total value of \$35 billion. These investments are supporting new jobs, reducing power prices and improving the reliability of our electricity grid while lowering emissions. The Technology Investment Roadmap is focussed on getting our future investment settings right.

Consultation on the Roadmap will inform the development of the first annual Low Emissions Technology Statement, which will identify technology priorities and ensure the Government's investment portfolio can be refined and updated over time.

Measures to increase adaptation and resilience

In addition to reducing emissions, building Australia's climate resilience is a key priority supported by more than \$20 billion of investment to bolster our science agencies and help our communities adapt to a changing climate.

For Official Use Only

The Government is working with leading universities and science agencies on the world's most ambitious reef adaptation and restoration program. Our farmers are building climate resilience with the support of the National Landcare Program and the Future Drought Fund.

The Emergency Response Fund, the National Water Grid Authority and the Bushfire Recovery Agency are helping communities recover and build resilience to future natural disasters.

These practical efforts are being guided by a series of reviews into Australia's climate adaptation, resilience and science initiatives, including the Royal Commission on National Natural Disaster Arrangements and CSIRO's work, led by Chief Scientist Alan Finkel, to investigate and report on further practical resilience measures needed to continue Australia's efforts to adapt to the effects of climate change.

Impact of the proposed Climate Trigger Bill 2020

The Department notes the proposed Bill will have a significant impact on Australia's resources sector. As such, the Bill is not consistent with the Government's 'technology not taxes' approach to reducing emissions.

In 2019 the resources sector comprised 8.7 per cent of Australia's gross domestic product, 73 per cent of goods exports and employed over 250,000 people. Ongoing development of Australia's mineral and energy resources sectors provides significant opportunity for economic growth and prosperity for the Australian people.

Australia's resources sector is a major contributor to Australia's economy and our energy exports such as LNG are contributing to efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions globally. Both the CSIRO and the International Energy Agency (IEA) have noted in recent reports that coal-to-gas switching can reduce emissions by as much as 50 per cent when producing electricity.

In its report *The Role of Gas in Today's Energy Transitions* (2019), the IEA found that fuel switching has significant CO₂ and air quality benefits, and that on average, coal-to-gas switching reduces emissions by 50% when producing electricity and by 33% when providing heat. The IEA also found that coal-to-gas switching avoided more than 500 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions over this period 2010-2018.

As noted above, Australia's resource projects are rigorously assessed under existing state and Commonwealth law. Extending the review and assessment of projects will directly increase the costs associated with project development. In the resources sector, delays to project approval can cost project proponents up to \$16 million a month to retain necessary staff and capital required to commence development once a project has been approved.

One example of the potential negative impact of delays in project approvals relates to offshore oil and gas production activities. Offshore oil and gas activities are currently assessed by NOPSEMA under streamlined regulatory arrangements, and covered by a strategic assessment under the EPBC Act. This assessment requires proponents to describe how they will mitigate environmental impacts arising from their activity, including management of greenhouse gas emissions. This Bill proposes to require approvals for undertaking emissions-intensive actions, defined as an action that involves mining operations

For Official Use Only

or drilling exploration. This would have implications for all such activities in the onshore and offshore resources sectors and could be a significant disincentive to investment.

In addition, the implementation of a climate trigger on the emission-intensive actions that are defined in the Bill will impose an additional regulatory burden on resource and agricultural industries and is contrary to government policy to reduce regulation where practical.

The Department notes the second independent review of the *EPBC Act* is currently underway and is due to report to the Minister for the Environment by the end of October 2020. The review's Interim Report is due in June. The outcomes of the review are expected to be relevant to the Committee in its consideration of the Bill.

I appreciate your consideration of this information and trust it will be of interest to the Committee.

Yours sincerely,

Jo Evans
Deputy Secretary
Climate Change and Energy Innovation Group

[Date]

s22

From: s22
Sent: Thursday, 28 May 2020 7:30 PM
To: Evans, Jo; Bennett, Helen
Cc: Johnston, Chris; s22
Subject: RE: Correspondence - DISER response to Senate Standing Committees on Environ.._ (002) (002) [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Thanks Helen and Jo

I'll put it in PDMS and assign back to you now.

Regards,

s22

For Official Use Only

From: Evans, Jo
Sent: Thursday, 28 May 2020 7:28 PM
To: Bennett, Helen s22 @industry.gov.au>
Cc: Johnston, Chris s22 @industry.gov.au>; s22 @industry.gov.au>; s22 @industry.gov.au>
Subject: RE: Correspondence - DISER response to Senate Standing Committees on Environ.._ (002) (002) [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Helen with one further tweak from me I am ok to sign.
Can you put it through PDMS please with track changes accepted.
Thanks
Jo

s22

s22

From: s22
Sent: Friday, 29 May 2020 12:27 PM
To: s22
Subject: Fwd: EC20-001036 : PDMS Notification - Record Assigned [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

For Official Use Only

s22 can you please call Dawe as requested by jo in the instructions below? Also, please let the committee know our letter is coming soon.

Thanks

s22

For Official Use Only

From: s22 <s22@pws.gov.au>
Date: Friday, 29 May 2020 at 12:24:07 pm
To: s22 <s22@industry.gov.au>
Subject: EC20-001036 : PDMS Notification - Record Assigned [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

DLM=For-Official-Use-Only

Jo Evans has assigned EC20-001036 to s22

Subject: Response to the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee's inquiry into the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Climate Trigger) Bill 2020

Next Due Date: Executive Action – 28/05/2020 1:00:00 PM

Processing Instructions/Comments:

Please make sure DAWE is aware of content we were advised came from Minister Ley's office and that they are comfortable before you dispatch this letter.

To action, please click on the below link:

[EC20-001036](#)

Requests can also be actioned via the [PDMS Inbox](#).

Thank you

PDMS Notification Service

Note: Please do not reply to this message.

CC Recipients:

Helen Bennett s22 <s22@industry.gov.au>

DLM=For-Official-Use-Only



Australian Government
**Department of Industry, Science,
Energy and Resources**

**DEPUTY SECRETARY
JO EVANS**

Senator the Hon David Fawcett
Chair
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Senator

Thank you for the opportunity for the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (the Department) to respond to the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee's inquiry into the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Climate Trigger) Bill 2020*.

The Department provides advice and implements a number of Australian Government policies and programs relating to industry, science, energy, resources and emissions reduction. The Department leads the development and coordination of domestic climate change policy, participates in international forums to support effective action on climate change and administers climate change programs to help reduce emissions.

Executive summary

The *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act)* is Australia's primary national environmental protection legislation. According to the first reading of the *Climate Trigger Bill*, the proposed amendment to the *EPBC Act* is put forward to "fulfil Australia's obligations under the Climate Change Conventions".

The Government has a comprehensive suite of policies and programs in place to drive emissions reductions across the economy and to fulfil Australia's international commitments under the Paris Agreement. These initiatives encourage innovation and expand the clean energy sector while maintaining a strong economy.

The *EPBC Act* is not considered to be the most appropriate mechanism to drive emissions reductions or ensure fulfilment of Australia's international obligations. The Bill's measures are duplicative: activities covered by the Bill are already subject to rigorous assessment and scrutiny by both Commonwealth and state authorities.

Further, the Bill would have a significant impact on key sectors of the Australian economy. The measures contained in the Bill are not consistent with the Government's 'technology not taxes' approach to reducing emissions.

Emissions reduction policies

The Government's emission reduction policies are working. *Australia's emissions projections 2019* (<https://publications.industry.gov.au/publications/climate-change/climate-change/publications/emissions-projections-2019.html>) show Australia is on track to exceed its 2030 target by 16 million tonnes (including past overachievement).

As part of the coordinated global effort to address climate change, the Government has set a strong, achievable target to reduce Australia's emissions by 2030 by 26 to 28 per cent below 2005 levels.

Australia's progress towards our 2030 target compares favourably with the progress of similar, commodity-exporting nations like Canada and New Zealand.

The \$3.5 billion Climate Solutions Package maps out how Australia will achieve its 2030 target. The Package includes a \$2 billion Climate Solutions Fund to build on the success of the Emissions Reduction Fund and continue the investment in low-cost abatement.

The Climate Solutions Package is supporting Australia's low emissions future through significant investments in energy infrastructure, such as the expansion of the Snowy Mountains Hydro Scheme, a range of new energy efficiency measures for homes and businesses and the development of a national strategy to support Australians who choose to adopt electric vehicles and address barriers to uptake.

The Government is also developing a Technology Investment Roadmap to bring a strategic and system-wide view to future investments in low emissions technologies. The Government's stated intention is to reduce emissions without imposing new costs on households, businesses or the economy. The Government's approach is about technology not taxes.

The Government sees great potential in technologies like hydrogen, carbon capture and storage, soil carbon sequestration and biofuels to reduce emissions in Australia and globally, while strengthening our economy.

The Government has already invested \$10.4 billion into more than 670 clean energy projects with a total value of \$35 billion. These investments are supporting new jobs, reducing power prices and improving the reliability of our electricity grid while lowering emissions. The Technology Investment Roadmap is focussed on getting our future investment settings right.

Consultation on the Roadmap will inform the development of the first annual Low Emissions Technology Statement, which will identify technology priorities and ensure the Government's investment portfolio can be refined and updated over time.

Measures to increase adaptation and resilience

In addition to reducing emissions, building Australia's climate resilience is a key priority supported by more than \$20 billion of investment to bolster our science agencies and help our communities adapt to a changing climate.

The Government is working with leading universities and science agencies on the world's most ambitious reef adaptation and restoration program. Our farmers are building climate resilience with the support of the National Landcare Program and the Future Drought Fund.

The Emergency Response Fund, the National Water Grid Authority and the Bushfire Recovery Agency are helping communities recover and build resilience to future natural disasters.

These practical efforts are being guided by a series of reviews into Australia's climate adaptation, resilience and science initiatives, including the Royal Commission on National Natural Disaster Arrangements and CSIRO's work, led by Chief Scientist Alan Finkel, to investigate and report on further practical resilience measures needed to continue Australia's efforts to adapt to the effects of climate change.

Impact of the proposed Climate Trigger Bill 2020

The Department notes the proposed Bill will have a significant impact on Australia's resources sector. As such, the Bill is not consistent with the Government's 'technology not taxes' approach to reducing emissions.

In 2019 the resources sector comprised 8.7 per cent of Australia's gross domestic product, 73 per cent of goods exports and employed over 250,000 people. Ongoing development of Australia's mineral and energy resources sectors provides significant opportunity for economic growth and prosperity for the Australian people.

Australia's resources sector is a major contributor to Australia's economy and our energy exports such as LNG are contributing to efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions globally. Both the CSIRO and the International Energy Agency (IEA) have noted in recent reports that coal-to-gas switching can reduce emissions by as much as 50 per cent when producing electricity.

In its report *The Role of Gas in Today's Energy Transitions* (2019), the IEA found that fuel switching has significant CO₂ and air quality benefits, and that on average, coal-to-gas switching reduces emissions by 50% when producing electricity and by 33% when providing heat. The IEA also found that coal-to-gas switching avoided more than 500 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions over this period 2010-2018.

As noted above, Australia's resource projects are rigorously assessed under existing state and Commonwealth law. Extending the review and assessment of projects will directly increase the costs associated with project development. In the resources sector, delays to project approval can cost project proponents up to \$16 million a month to retain necessary staff and capital required to commence development once a project has been approved.

One example of the potential negative impact of delays in project approvals relates to offshore oil and gas production activities. Offshore oil and gas activities are currently assessed by NOPSEMA under streamlined regulatory arrangements, and covered by a strategic assessment under the EPBC Act. This assessment requires proponents to describe how they will mitigate environmental impacts arising from their activity, including management of greenhouse gas emissions. This Bill proposes to require approvals for undertaking emissions-intensive actions, defined as an action that involves mining operations or drilling exploration. This would have implications for all such activities in the onshore and offshore resources sectors and could be a significant disincentive to investment.

In addition, the implementation of a climate trigger on the emission-intensive actions that are defined in the Bill will impose an additional regulatory burden on resource and agricultural industries and is contrary to government policy to reduce regulation where practical.

The Department notes the second independent review of the *EPBC Act* is currently underway and is due to report to the Minister for the Environment by the end of October 2020. The review's Interim Report is due in June. The outcomes of the review are expected to be relevant to the Committee in its consideration of the Bill.

I appreciate your consideration of this information and trust it will be of interest to the Committee.

Yours sincerely,

s22

Jo Evans
Deputy Secretary
Climate Change and Energy Innovation Group
29 May 2020

s22

From: Johnston, Chris
Sent: Thursday, 4 June 2020 8:58 AM
To: s22
Subject: FW: Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources response to the EPBC Climate Trigger Bill Senate Inquiry [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]
Attachments: DISER response to Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communic....pdf

[Our submission to the trigger bill inquiry](#)

For Official Use Only

From: Climate Change Policy
Sent: Wednesday, 3 June 2020 2:37 PM
To: Committee, EC (SEN)
Cc: s22 Johnston, Chris ; Bennett, Helen ; Evans, Jo ; Climate Change Policy
Subject: Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources response to the EPBC Climate Trigger Bill Senate Inquiry [DLM=For-Official-Use-Only]

Good afternoon,

Please find attached the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources response to the Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee inquiry into the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Climate Trigger) Bill 2020.

Apologies for the delay in getting this to you, we appreciate the Senate Committee and Secretariat's understanding.

Best wishes,
s22

A/g Assistant Manager
Climate Mitigation Policy and Risk
Climate Change Policy
Climate Change Division

s22

Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources | www.industry.gov.au

For Official Use Only