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PROGRAM 1.1 – GROWING INNOVATIVE AND COMPETITIVE BUSINESSES, INDUSTRIES AND REGIONS

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PORTFOLIO AGENCIES**Geoscience Australia**

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HEARING PROGRAM

Supplementary Estimates 2023–24 Economics Legislation Committee

Wednesday, 25 October and Thursday, 26 October 2023

Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra

Times listed are indicative only



Hearing location

Committee Room 2R1,

Parliament House, Canberra

Waiting room: Committee Room 2R2

Overflow waiting room: Committee Room 1S1



Committee members

Senator Jess Walsh (Chair)

Senator Andrew Bragg (Deputy Chair)

Senator Deborah O'Neill

Senator Jana Stewart

Senator Nick McKim

Senator Dean Smith



Broadcasts of proceedings

Television channel 109

Radio 98.3

[https://www.aph.gov.au/News and Events/Watch Parliament](https://www.aph.gov.au/News_and_Events/Watch_Parliament)



Contact

economics.sen@aph.gov.au

+61 2 6277 3540

Committee rooms

Committee Room 2R1: (02) 6277 2986

Committee Room 2R2: (02) 6277 2270

Ministers attending

TBC

Secretariat

Mr Alan Raine, Committee Secretary

Ms Nicola Kosseck, Principal Research Officer

Ms Tegan Scott, Principal Research Officer

Ms Rachel Benzie, Senior Research Officer

Mr Michael Finch, Senior Research Officer

Mr Jai Maybury, Research Officer

Ms Adelaide Hutchins, Research Officer

Mr Kieran Knox, Administrative Officer

Wednesday, 25 October 2023

Treasury Portfolio

<p>9.00am (120 mins)</p>	<p>Department of the Treasury Including Dr Steven Kennedy PSM (until 11am)</p> <p>Macroeconomic Group</p> <p>International and Foreign Investment Group Including the Foreign Investment Review Board</p>
<p>11.00am</p>	<p>Break (15)</p>
<p>11.15am (30 mins)</p>	<p>Department of the Treasury</p> <p>Macroeconomic Group (Cont.)</p> <p>International and Foreign Investment Group (Cont.) Including the Foreign Investment Review Board</p>
<p>11.45pm (45 mins)</p>	<p>Department of the Treasury</p> <p>Small Business, Housing, Corporate and Law Group</p>
<p>12.30pm (45mins)</p>	<p>Department of the Treasury</p> <p>Fiscal Group Job Summit and Employment White Paper Task Force</p>
<p>1.15pm</p>	<p>Lunch (60)</p>
<p>2.15pm (60mins)</p>	<p>Department of the Treasury</p> <p>Markets Group</p>
<p>3.15pm (90 mins)</p>	<p>Department of the Treasury</p> <p>Revenue Group</p> <p>Australian Taxation Office</p> <p>Tax Practitioners Board</p> <p>Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission</p>
<p>4.45pm</p>	<p>Break (15)</p>
<p>5.00pm (15 mins)</p>	<p>Inspector-General of Taxation and Taxation Ombudsman</p>
<p>5.15pm (60 mins)</p>	<p>Australian Prudential Regulation Authority</p>
<p>6.15pm (60 mins)</p>	<p>Australian Competition and Consumer Commission</p>
<p>7.15pm</p>	<p>Dinner (60)</p>

8.15pm (30 mins)	Housing Australia (formerly National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation)
8.45pm (30 mins)	Australian Reinsurance Pool Corporation
9.15pm	Break (15)
9.30pm (30mins)	Productivity Commission
10.00pm (30 mins)	Australian Bureau of Statistics
10.30pm (30 mins)	Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman
11.00pm	Adjournment

Thursday, 26 October 2023

Treasury Portfolio

9.00am (90 mins)	Reserve Bank of Australia
10.30am (30 mins)	Australian Securities and Investments Commission
11.00am	Break (15)
11.15am (60 mins)	Australian Securities and Investments Commission (Cont.)

Industry, Science, and Resources Portfolio

12.15pm (30 mins)	Department of Industry, Science and Resources Corporate, Enabling and Business Services
12.45pm (30 mins)	<p>Department of Industry, Science and Resources</p> <p>Outcome 1: Support economic growth, productivity, and job creation for all Australians by investing in science, technology and commercialisation, growing innovative and competitive businesses, industries and regions, and supporting resources.</p> <p>Program 1.3: Supporting a strong resources sector</p> <p><u>Topics and entities</u></p> <p>Minerals and Resources</p> <p>Oil and Gas</p>
1.15pm	Lunch (60)

<p>2.15pm (90 mins)</p>	<p>Department of Industry, Science and Resources</p> <p>Outcome 1: Support economic growth, productivity, and job creation for all Australians by investing in science, technology and commercialisation, growing innovative and competitive businesses, industries and regions, and supporting resources.</p> <p>Program 1.3: Supporting a strong resources sector (Cont.)</p> <p><i>Topics and entities</i></p> <p>Minerals and Resources Oil and Gas</p>
<p>3.45pm (60 mins)</p>	<p>Department of Industry, Science and Resources</p> <p>Outcome 1: (Continued)</p> <p>Program 1.3: Supporting a strong resources sector (Cont.)</p> <p><i>Topics and entities</i></p> <p>Radioactive Waste Management Maralinga Maintenance and Site Remediation Rum Jungle Mine Site – Environmental Rehabilitation Australian Radioactive Waste Agency</p> <p>Program 1.4: Nuclear Powered Submarine Program</p> <p>Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation</p>
<p>4.45pm</p>	<p>Break (15)</p>
<p>5.00pm (60 mins)</p>	<p>National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority</p>
<p>6.00pm (60 mins)</p>	<p>Department of Industry, Science and Resources</p> <p>Outcome 1: (Continued)</p> <p>Program 1.1: Growing innovative and competitive businesses, industries and regions</p> <p>Manufacturing and National Reconstruction Fund Industry Growth Sovereign Capability and Supply Chains Anti-Dumping Commission Australian Building Codes Board Industry Innovation and Science Australia Australian Space Agency</p>
<p>7.00pm</p>	<p>Dinner (60)</p>
<p>8.00pm (30 mins)</p>	<p>National Reconstruction Fund Corporation</p>
<p>8.30pm (30 mins)</p>	<p>Department of Industry, Science and Resources</p> <p>Outcome 1: (Continued)</p> <p>Program 1.2: Investing in science, technology and commercialisation</p> <p>National Measurement Institute Science</p>

	Technology and digital Questacon Commercialisation
9.00pm	Break (15)
9.15pm (60 mins)	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
10.15pm (45 mins)	Geoscience Australia
11.00pm	<i>Adjournment</i>

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2023-2024

WITNESS LIST – 26 OCTOBER 2023

Department of Industry, Science and Resources

Secretary - Meghan Quinn

DISR Corporate – 12:15pm – Thursday, 26 October 2023

Name and title	Attendance
Mr Neal Mason, Deputy Secretary	In person
Mr Robert Jeremenko, Acting Deputy Secretary	In person
Ms Michelle Dowdell, Head of Division, Analysis and Insights	In person
Ms Kate Penney, General Manager, Economic and Industry Analysis	In person
Ms Crystal Ossolinski, General Manager, Resources and Energy Insights	In person
Mr Gavin McCosker, Chief Finance Officer	In person
Ms Erin Cockram, General Manager, External Budgets and Procurement	In person
Ms Simone Boulding, Acting Chief Information Officer	In person
Ms Rebecca Lee, Chief Operating Officer	In person
Ms Deborah Miliszewski, General Counsel	In person
Ms Louise Wallensky, General Manager, Communications	In person
Ms Sam Chard, Head of Division, Business Grants Hub and Integrity	In person
Ms Camille de Burgh, Head of Division, Strategic Policy	In person
Mr James Pitman, Acting General Manager, Ministerial and Executive Enabling	In person
Dr Carolyn Patteson, Head of Division, International Trade and National Security	In person
Ms Alison Drury, General Manager, Trade and International	In person
Mr Richard Samuels, General Manager, International Science and Resources	In person

Outcome 1 (cont'd)

DISR Program 1.3: Supporting a strong resources sector – 12:45pm – Thursday, 26 October 2023

Name and title	Attendance
Mr Robert Jeremenko, Acting Deputy Secretary	In person
Mr Sam Usher, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Radioactive Waste Agency	In person
Ms Jodie Lindsay, General Manager, Social License and Operational Support	In person
Mr Peter Chesworth, Head of Division, Minerals and Resources	In person
Mr Matthew Crawshaw, General Manager, Mining	In person
Ms Victoria Pullen, General Manager, Critical Minerals Office	In person
Mr David Lawrence, Acting Head of Division, Oil and Gas	In person
Mr Shane McWhinney, General Manager, Northern Endeavour	In person
Ms Norelle Laucher, General Manager, Offshore Strategy	In person
Mr William Tan, General Manager, Decommissioning Roadmap Taskforce	In person
Mr Cliff Weeks, General Manager, Offshore Resources	In person
Mr Graeme Waters, General Manager, National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator	In person

Outcome 1 (cont'd)

Program 1.4: Nuclear Powered Submarine Program – 3:45pm – Thursday, 26 October 2023

n/a

Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation – 3:45pm – Thursday, 26 October 2023

Name and title	Attendance
Mr Shaun Jenkinson, Chief Executive Officer	In person
Mr John Edge, Chief Operating Officer	In person
Dr Miles Apperley, Group Executive, Nuclear Safety Security and Stewardship	In person

National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority – 5:00pm – Thursday, 26 October 2023

Name and title	Attendance
Ms Sue McCarrey PSM, Chief Executive Officer	In person
Mr Cameron Grebe, Head of Division, Environment, Renewables and Decommissioning	In person
Mr Derrick O’Keeffe, Head of Division, Safety and Integrity	In person

Program 1.1: Growing innovative and competitive businesses, industries and regions – 6:00pm – Thursday, 26 October 2023

Name and title	Attendance
Ms Julia Pickworth, Deputy Secretary	In person
Ms Jessica Casben, Acting Commissioner, Anti-Dumping Commission	In person
Mr Enrico Palermo, Head of Agency, Australian Space Agency	In person
Ms Dara Williams, Deputy Head of Agency, Australian Space Agency	In person
Mr Christopher de Luis, General Manager, Office of the Space Regulator	In person
Ms Isolde Lueckenhausen, Deputy Commissioner Investigations	In person
Mr David Luchetti, Head of Division, AusIndustry	In person
Mr David Chuter, Executive Director, Industry Growth Program	In person
Mr Gary Rake, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Building Codes Board	In person
Ms Deborah Anton, Head of Division, Industry and Manufacturing	In Person
Mr Kurt Hockey, General Manager, Industrial Net Zero Policy	In person
Ms Donna Looney, Head of Division, Sovereign Capability and Supply Chains	In person
Mr John Krbaleski, General Manager, Industry Participation and Major Projects Facilitation	In person
Ms Jocelyn Cooper, General Manager, Sovereign Capability	In person
Ms Jasminder Higgins, Acting General Manager, NRF Policy and Liaison	In person
Mr Tim Wong, General Manager, Office of Supply Chain Resilience	In person

National Reconstruction Fund Corporation – 8:00pm – Thursday, 26 October 2023

Name and title	Attendance
Ms Rebecca Manen, Acting Chief Executive Officer	In person

Program 1.2: Investing in science, technology, and commercialisation – 8:30pm – Thursday, 26 October 2023

Name and title	Attendance
Ms Helen Wilson, Deputy Secretary	In person
Ms Julia Pickworth, Deputy Secretary	In person
Mr Nick Purtell, Head of Division, Commercialisation	In person
Ms Tara Oliver, General Manager, Research and Development, Tax Incentive	In person
Ms Sandra Roussel, General Manager, Venture Capital and Entrepreneurship	In person
Dr Bruce Warrington, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Metrologist, National Measurement Institute	In person
Ms Jo White, Director, Questacon	In person
Ms Hayley Arbaut-Zaalen, General Manager, Science Strategy and Priorities Taskforce	In person
Ms Natalie Weddell, General Manager, Science Policy and Governance	In person
Ms Janean Richards, Head of Division, Science	Videoconference
Mr Anthony Murfett, Head of Division, Technology and Digital	In person
Mr Lucas Rutherford, General Manager, Technology Strategy	In person
Mr Dan Quinn, General Manager, Enabling Technologies	In person

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation – 9:15pm – Thursday, 26 October 2023

Name and title	Attendance
Professor Doug Hilton, Chief Executive	In person
Mr Tom Munyard, Chief Operating Officer	In person
Dr Peter Mayfield, Executive Director, Environment, Energy and Resources	In person
Professor Elanor Huntington, Executive Director, Digital, National Facilities and Collections	In person
Ms Kirsten Rose, Executive Director, Future Industries	In person
Professor Bronwyn Fox, Chief Scientist	In person
Dr Jack Steele, Director, Science Impact and Policy	In person
Mr Paul Graham, Principal Research Scientist, Energy Economics	In person

Geoscience Australia – 10:15pm – Thursday, 26 October 2023

Name and title	Attendance
Dr James Johnson, Chief Executive Officer	In person
Dr Steve Hill, Chief Scientist and Acting Chief of Division	In person
Dr Andrew Heap, Chief of Minerals, Energy and Groundwater	In person
Ms Alison Rose, Chief of Space	In person
Mr Jonathon Ross, Branch Head, Satellite Land Imaging Collection	In person
Dr Steve Hill, Acting Chief of Place and Communities	In person
Mr Trent Rawlings, Chief of Corporate	In person
Ms Erika Taduran, General Manager, Enabling Services	In person
Mr Clive Rossiter, Chief Information Officer	In person
Mr Michael (Su-Sueh) Koh, Chief Financial Officer	In person
Dr David Robinson, Acting Branch Head, Basin Systems, Minerals, Energy and Groundwater	In person
Dr Verity Normington, Executive Officer, Office of the Chief Scientist	In person
Dr Jodie Smith, Acting Branch Head, Oceans, Reefs, Coasts and Antarctic, Chief of Place and Communities	In person

Economics Legislation Committee Membership

Committee Members



Chair
Senator Jess Walsh
Australian Labor Party, VIC



Senator Deborah O'Neill
Australian Labor Party, NSW



Deputy Chair
Senator Andrew Bragg
Liberal Party of Australia, NSW



Senator Dean Smith
Liberal Party of Australia, WA



Senator Nick McKim
Australian Greens, TAS



Senator Jana Stewart
Australian Labor Party, VIC

Participating Members

Senators Penny Allman-Payne, Alex Antic, Wendy Askew, Ralph Babet, Catryna Bilyk, Slade Brockman, Ross Cadell, Claire Chandler, Raff Ciccone, Dorinda Cox, Perin Davey, Patrick Dodson, Jonathon Duniam, Mehreen Faruqi, Nita Green, Karen Grogan, Pauline Hanson, Sarah Hanson-Young, Sarah Henderson, Hollie Hughes, Jane Hume, Maria Kovacic, Jacqui Lambie, Kerrynne Liddle, Susan McDonald, Nick McKim, Andrew McLachlan, Jacinta Nampijinpa Price, Matt O'Sullivan, James Paterson, Fatima Payman, Marise Payne, Barbara Pocock, David Pocock, Helen Polley, Louise Pratt, Gerard Rennick, Janet Rice, Malcolm Roberts, Paul Scarr, Tony Sheldon, David Shoebridge, Marielle Smith, Jordon Steele-John, Glenn Sterle, Lidia Thorpe, Tammy Tyrrell, Anne Urquhart, David Van, Larissa Waters, Peter Whish-Wilson, Linda White

Updated 5 October 2023

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESOURCES
Organisation Structure | effective 16 October 2023

Ministers	Minister for Resources and Minister for Northern Australia The Hon Madeleine King MP					Minister for Industry and Science The Hon Ed Husic MP				Assistant Minister for Manufacturing and Assistant Minister for Trade Senator the Hon Tim Ayres									
						Secretary Meghan Quinn PSM				Chief of Staff Judith Blake									
Groups	Resources & Strategy Robert Jeremenko (a/g)					Industry & Commercialisation Julia Pickworth				Science & Technology Helen Wilson				Enabling & Business Services Neal Mason					
Divisions	Strategic Policy	International, Trade & National Security	Analysis & Insights	Minerals & Resources	Oil & Gas	Industry & Manufacturing	Sovereign Capability & Supply Chains	Commercialisation	AusIndustry	National Measurement Institute	Science	Technology & Digital	Technology Investment Taskforce	Questacon	Chief Finance Officer	Chief Operating Officer	Chief Information Officer	Business Grants Hub & Integrity	Enterprise Bargaining
	Head of Division Camille de Burgh	Head of Division Dr Carolyn Patteson	Chief Economist Michelle Dowdell	Head of Division Peter Chesworth	Head of Division Shane McWhinney (a/g)	Head of Division Deb Anton	Head of Division Donna Looney	Head of Division Nick Purtell	Head of Division David Luchetti	CEO & Chief Metrologist Dr Bruce Warrington	Head of Division Janean Richards	Head of Division Anthony Murfett	Head of Division Anthony McGregor	Head of Division Jo White	Head of Division Gavin McCosker	Head of Division Rebecca Lee	Head of Division Simone Boulding (a/g)	Head of Division Sam Chard	Head of Division Leanne Yannopoulos
Branches	Budget & Portfolio Policy Tracey Mackay (a/g)	Trade & International Alison Drury	Economic & Industry Analysis Kate Penney	Resources Strategy Casey Millward	Offshore Resources Cliff Weeks	Sector Development Louise Talbot	Office of Supply Chain Resilience Tim Wong	Research & Development Tax Incentive Tara Oliver	Business Outreach & Engagement Sarah Howard	Physical Metrology Dr Jan Herrmann	Science Policy & Governance Natalie Weddell	Enabling Technologies Dan Quinn	Technology Investment Dianna Gaetjens	Operations Steve Stirling	Financial & Shared Services Kirsty Bunfield	Legal Deborah Miliszewski	ICT Operations Stewart McGill	Internal Programs Kimberley Shives	
	Ministerial & Executive Enabling James Pitman (a/g)	National Security Engagement Andy Matz	Data & Evaluation Scott Clouder (a/g)	Mining Matt Crawshaw	Offshore Strategy Norelle Laucher	Industrial Net Zero Transformation Kurt Hockey	Industry Participation & Major Project Facilitation John Krbaleski	Venture Capital & Entrepreneurship Sandra Roussel	Industry Growth Program Rebecca Lannen	Analytical Services Tim Stobaus	Research & Collaboration Linda Lee	Critical Technologies Hub Jessica Foote		Science & Learning Dr Bobby Cerini	Financial Management Jane Childs	People Tanja Watson	Digital Strategy & Cyber Security Somers Bloomfield (a/g)	External Programs Noel Taloni (a/g)	
Branches	Whole of Government Policy & Priorities Naomi Perdomo	International Science & Resources Richard Samuels	Resources & Energy Insights Crystal Ossolinski	Critical Minerals Office Victoria Pullen	Northern Endeavour Andrea De Leon Ewers (a/g)	Industrial Net Zero Policy James Flick (a/g)	Batteries Jocelyn Cooper	Office of Industry Innovation & Science Australia Tanya Blight	Industry Growth Executive Director David Chuter	Chemical & Biological Metrology Dr Lindsey Mackay	Office of the Chief Scientist Paula Perrett	Quantum Michele Graham			External Budgets & Procurement Erin Cockram	Communications Louise Wallensky	Digital Services for Business Andrea Cross	Integrity Derek Stiller	
				Special Advisor, Critical Minerals Office Damien Dunn	National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator Graeme Waters	Future Transport & Infrastructure Policy Maxine Loynd	NRF Policy & Liaison Jasminder Higgins (a/g)			Legal Metrology Bill Loizides	Astronomy Caroline Quan (a/g)	Technology Strategy Lucas Rutherford				Property Sue Cattermole			
Portfolio Entities	Australian Radioactive Waste Agency (ARWA) CEO Sam Usher					ANTI DUMPING COMMISSION Dr Bradley Armstrong PSM		AUSTRALIAN BUILDING CODES BOARD Gary Rake CEO		AUSTRALIAN SPACE AGENCY Enrico Palermo Agency Head Dara Williams Deputy Head of Agency									
	Social License & Operational Support Jodie Lindsay					Safety & Technical Amanda Fortanier (a/g)					Office of the Space Regulator Chris De Luis				Space Policy Chris Hewett				
Policy, Governance & Strategy Mark Weaver										National Space Capability, Technology & Programs Aude Vignelles (a/g)									
Geoscience Australia Dr James Johnson CEO					IP Australia Michael Schwager Director-General		Industry Innovation and Science Australia Chair Mr Andrew Stevens		Commonwealth Scientific & Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) Doug Hilton, Chief Executive				Australian Nuclear Science & Technology Organisation (ANSTO) Shaun Jenkinson CEO						
National Offshore Petroleum Safety & Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) Sue McCarrey CEO					NRF Corporation CEO - Vacant					Chief Scientist Dr Cathy Foley									



**THE HON MADELEINE KING MP
MINISTER FOR RESOURCES
MINISTER FOR NORTHERN AUSTRALIA**

MS23-000951

Senator the Hon Sue Lines
President of the Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear President

Pursuant to the continuing Senate Order for the production of indexed lists of departmental and agency files, I wish to advise that the indexed lists of departmental and agency files (period 1 January to 30 June 2023) for the Portfolio have been placed on the respective departmental and agency websites.

Department of Industry, Science and Resources	www.industry.gov.au/accessing-information/indexed-list-files
Geoscience Australia	www.ga.gov.au/about/corporate-documents/file-titles

As a corporate Commonwealth entity, the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority is not required to comply with the Order.

Minister Bowen will table a separate letter for indexed file list titles relating to the Energy and Climate Change functions created by the Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR) on behalf of the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water. Relevant files will be published on the DISR website.

Ms Linda Nelson is the contact officer in the department for the file list and can be contacted on (02) 6276 1629.

Yours sincerely

Madeleine King MP

20 A /2023



**THE HON MADELEINE KING MP
MINISTER FOR RESOURCES
MINISTER FOR NORTHERN AUSTRALIA**

MS23-001090

Senator the Hon Sue Lines
President of the Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear President

Pursuant to the Senate Order for Entity Contracts, of 20 June 2001 (amended 1 July 2017), I wish to advise that all Resources entities I administer have placed a list of contracts at or above \$100,000 (GST inclusive), which have not been fully performed or which have been entered into in the 12 months prior to 30 June 2023, on their respective internet websites.

The location of the lists are as follows:

- Department of Industry, Science and Resources – www.industry.gov.au
- Geoscience Australia - www.ga.gov.au
- National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority - www.nopsema.gov.au

The following entity's contract listings do not fully comply with the requirements of paragraph (2) of the Order for the reasons outlined below.

The Department of Industry, Science and Resources:

- The amount of consideration for 3 contracts was not included on the basis that the information is confidential.

Procurement contracts conducted by non-corporate Commonwealth entities (NCEs) are not included in the contract listing. All NCE procurement contracts can be found at AusTender, www.tenders.gov.au. The report is titled 'Entity Reports for complying with the Senate Order on Procurement Contracts and use of Confidentiality Provisions'.

The contact officer for the listings is Kiley Hamad who may be contacted on (02) 6213 6057.

Yours sincerely

Madeleine King MP

20/6/2023



**THE HON MADELEINE KING MP
MINISTER FOR RESOURCES
MINISTER FOR NORTHERN AUSTRALIA**

MS23-001473

Senator the Hon Sue Lines
President of the Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear President

Pursuant to Senate Procedural Order 15 on Portfolio Appointments and Vacancies, please find enclosed a report covering the Resources portfolio for appointments made from 2 May 2023 to 2 October 2023, including existing vacancies that are intended to be filled.

If you require further information, please contact Mr James Pitman, A/g General Manager, Ministerial and Executive Enabling Branch in the Department of Industry, Science and Resources on (02) 6213 6074 or by emailing appointments@industry.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Madeleine King'.

Madeleine King MP

16 / 10 /2023

Enc (1)



Senate Order 15 Portfolio Appointments and Vacancies Report

Minister for Resources

2 May 2023 to 2 October 2023

Appointments

Commonwealth body	Appointee & Position Type	Term Start	Term End	Remuneration	State or Territory Residence
Kimba Consultative Committee	Mr Allan Suter Independent Convener	14/09/2023	30/06/2024	\$572 (per diem)	SA
Kimba Consultative Committee	Mr Dean Johnson Deputy Convener	14/09/2023	30/06/2024	\$572 (per diem)	SA
Kimba Consultative Committee	Ms Heather Baldock Member	14/09/2023	30/06/2024	\$430 (per diem)	SA
Kimba Consultative Committee	Mr Jeffrey Baldock Member	14/09/2023	30/06/2024	\$430 (per diem)	SA
Kimba Consultative Committee	Ms Patricia Beinke Member	14/09/2023	30/06/2024	\$430 (per diem)	SA
Kimba Consultative Committee	Mr Randall Cliff Member	14/09/2023	30/06/2024	\$430 (per diem)	SA
Kimba Consultative Committee	Ms Kellie Hunt Member	14/09/2023	30/06/2024	\$430 (per diem)	SA
Kimba Consultative Committee	Mr Jeff Koch Member	14/09/2023	30/06/2024	\$430 (per diem)	SA
Kimba Consultative Committee	Ms Meagan Lienert Member	14/09/2023	30/06/2024	\$430 (per diem)	SA
Kimba Consultative Committee	Ms Kerri Rayson Member	14/09/2023	30/06/2024	\$430 (per diem)	SA
Kimba Consultative Committee	Ms Toni Scott Member	14/09/2023	30/06/2024	\$430 (per diem)	SA
Kimba Consultative Committee	Mr Peter Woolford Member	14/09/2023	30/06/2024	\$430 (per diem)	SA

Single Appointments

No single appointments in scope of the Senate Order were made during the reporting period.

Current Vacancies (intended to be filled)

Commonwealth body	Vacant Position
National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority Board	1 x Chair, 3 x Member

Commonwealth body	Vacant Position
Kimba Consultative Committee	3 x Member
Critical Minerals Independent Technical Panel (formerly Critical Minerals Independent Advisory Panel)	5 x Member



**THE HON MADELEINE KING MP
MINISTER FOR RESOURCES
MINISTER FOR NORTHERN AUSTRALIA**

MS23-001610

Senator the Hon Sue Lines
President of the Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear President

Pursuant to Procedural Order of Continuing Effect 16, please find attached the list of grants approved under the Resources functions of the Industry, Science and Resources Portfolio for the period 20 April 2023 to 21 September 2023.

The following entities did not approve any grants during the period:

- Geoscience Australia; and
- National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority.

The listing of grants approved under other functions in the Industry, Science and Resources Portfolio will be tabled by responsible Ministers.

Yours sincerely

Madeleine King MP

16 / 10 / 2023

Enc



**THE HON MADELEINE KING MP
MINISTER FOR RESOURCES
MINISTER FOR NORTHERN AUSTRALIA**

MS23-001107

Senator the Hon Sue Lines
President of the Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear President

Pursuant to Senate Procedural Order 21, I submit a statement regarding outstanding Questions on Notice (QoNs) from the Budget Estimates hearings held between 22 May and 2 June 2023. This information relates to the 98 QoNs pertinent to my responsibilities within the Industry, Science and Resources portfolio.

Responses to 31 of the 98 QoNs were tabled by their due dates of 14 July 2023 and 4 August 2023. Responses to the other 67 QoNs, were provided to my office on the following dates:

Date QoNs provided	Number of QoNs provided
27 June 2023	1
28 June 2023	5
29 June 2023	1
30 June 2023	3
3 July 2023	4
4 July 2023	3
6 July 2023	17
7 July 2023	5
10 July 2023	1
14 July 2023	7
18 July 2023	2
21 July 2023	6
24 July 2023	6
25 July 2023	1

Date QoNs provided	Number of QoNs provided
26 July 2023	1
27 July 2023	2
1 August 2023	1
15 August 2023	1

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Madeleine King". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Madeleine King MP

16 / 10 /2023



**THE HON MADELEINE KING MP
MINISTER FOR RESOURCES
MINISTER FOR NORTHERN AUSTRALIA**

MS23-001110

Senator the Hon Sue Lines
President of the Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear President

Pursuant to Senate Procedural Order 22, I submit this statement confirming I have not had relevant meetings with former ministers during the reporting period 2 May 2023 to 2 October 2023.

I can confirm that no such meetings took place for the Department of Industry, Science and Resources' Secretary and Deputy Secretaries, nor for their equivalents from Geoscience Australia and the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Madeleine King'.

Madeleine King MP

16 / 10 / 2023



30 June 2023

Senator Jess Walsh
Chair
Senate Economics Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Walsh

On reviewing the Proof Hansard of the testimony given by CSIRO at the Senate Estimates hearing on 1 June 2023, we find that some of the information provided to the Committee would benefit from clarification.

The following exchange occurred between Senator Shoebridge and myself, Dr Peter Mayfield, Executive Director, Environment, Energy and Resources:

Dr Mayfield: He has no involvement in GISERA. The model that we apply—it's critical that the work that gets done there is independent. It is important it is raised independently. We have a range of research advisory committees which are in each jurisdiction—whether it's Queensland, Northern Territory, New South Wales—that are made up of different representatives. There are no gas industry representatives there, but there is a lot of community, and they have the balance of decision-making power. They determine the work that gets done. CSIRO delivers that work and uses its normal peer-review processes to ensure the integrity of that work. That's how we're undertaking that work. The companies, while they provide some funding, have no influence or say over what work gets done or how it's delivered.

I was referring to the fact that there are no industry representatives on the Gas Industry Social and Environmental Research Alliance (GISERA) Research Advisory Committees (RACs) in NSW.

I would like to clarify the statement made regarding industry representation on the GISERA RACs. There is no majority representation by industry on those committees. Three of the five current RACs do not have industry representation. Two of the five current RACs have minority industry representation (Northern Territory RAC 14 % and Queensland RAC 25 %).

I apologise for any inconvenience caused and ask that you alert other members of the Committee to this clarification.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P Mayfield", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr Peter Mayfield

Executive Director, Environment, Energy and Resources
CSIRO

CSIRO
Australia's National Science Agency



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

Senator Jess Walsh
Chair
Senate Economics Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Walsh

On reviewing the Proof Hansard of the testimony given by the department at the Senate Estimates hearing on 1 June 2023, we find that some of the information provided to the Committee would benefit from clarification and correction.

The following exchange occurred between Senator Shoebridge and Mr Sam Usher, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Radioactive Waste Agency (ARWA):

Senator SHOEBRIDGE: Mr Usher, did anybody from your agency meet with Dr Mokhtar?

Mr Usher: No.

Since the hearing Mr Usher has been advised that an ARWA representative did meet Dr Najat Mokhtar, Deputy Director General, International Atomic Energy Agency at a round table meeting on 24 May 2023.

Mr Usher apologises for any inconvenience caused and asks that you alert other members of the Committee to this correction.

Please can you also ask the Committee to note that the response to Committee Question Number BI-70 provides further details regarding this matter.

Yours sincerely

Jodie Lindsay
Chief Operating Officer
Australian Radioactive Waste Agency

5 July 2023



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

Senator Jess Walsh
Chair
Senate Economics Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Walsh

On reviewing the Proof Hansard of the testimony given by the department at the Senate Estimates hearing on 1 June 2023, we find that some of the information provided to the Committee would benefit from clarification and correction.

The following exchange occurred between Senator David Pocock and Ms Megan Quinn, Secretary of the Department of Industry, Science and Resources:

Senator DAVID POCOCK: Who does the Chief Scientist report to?

Ms Quinn: She's appointed by the government, so she has a strong relationship with the minister for science. But she is appointed by the Governor-General, so, in that sense, she reports to the cabinet and the whole of government, and she had a lot of connections across. On particular projects and particular tasks, she may be tasked by particular ministers or outside parties.

Australia's Chief Scientist is appointed by the Prime Minister, or at his discretion, the Cabinet, and reports to the Minister for Science.

I apologise for any inconvenience caused and ask that you alert other members of the Committee to this correction.

Yours sincerely

Hayley Arbaut-Zaalen
A/g Head of Science Division

3 July 2023

NET ZERO SECTOR PLANS

Headline Statement

- The Australian Government will develop six sectoral decarbonisation plans covering all major components of the economy to feed into our Net Zero 2050 plan and strong 2035 targets. Consistent with its Portfolio responsibilities, DISR is supporting the development of:
 - the Industrial Sector and Built Environment Plans led by Minister Husic
 - the Resources Sector Plan led by Minister King.

Key Points

- The overall Net Zero 2050 plan is led by Minister Bowen and the Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water.
 - The six sectors are: electricity and energy; transport; industry; agriculture and land; resources; and the built environment.
 - The Climate Change Authority will also provide advice to the government on the technology pathways for those six sectors.
- The Industrial Sector Plan will identify how to support businesses to reduce emissions in the transition to net zero while ensuring Australia's continued industrial growth, economic value, and competitiveness by expanding our manufacturing capabilities. This will also include the waste sector, which is the responsibility of Minister Plibersek.
 - The development of an Industrial Sector Plan will consider the role of existing government measures, such as the Safeguard Mechanism, the National Reconstruction Fund (NRF), including the \$3 billion allocated to invest in renewables and low emission technologies, and the Powering the Regions Fund.
- The Built Environment Plan will outline how the operations of our current building stock and future buildings can support lower emissions.

Contact Officer:

Name: Camille de Burgh
Division: Strategic Policy Division
Telephone: s47E(d)
Last updated: 12/10/2023 9:55:00 AM

- The plan will consider existing measures targeting emissions reductions such as the Trajectory for Low Energy Buildings and National Australian Built Environment Rating System, and the Nationwide House Energy Rating System. It will also take into account work to date on the National Construction Code.
- The Resources Sector Plan will outline potential pathways the sector can follow as it transitions from today to net zero by 2050. The pathways will draw on internal modelling and analytical capability and engagement with industry.
 - It will take account of existing policies including the Safeguard Mechanism, Powering the Regions and the Critical Minerals Facility and identify trends in sector innovation to support decarbonisation pathways.
- The Government is working closely with State and Territory governments, industry and other key stakeholder groups, to ensure the plans consider a comprehensive range of perspectives and has broad buy-in.
 - Targeted stakeholder engagement will occur in Q4 2023, with further consultation expected in early 2024.

Policy Commitments

- In 2022, the Government legislated Australia's greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets, to reach net zero by 2050 and 43 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030.
- Building on that momentum, the Government has committed to developing a net zero plan which will articulate how Australia will transition to a net zero economy, consistent with our international and domestic commitments.
 - The Annual Climate Statement to Parliament in 2022 committed the Government to articulate the 2050 net zero plan.
 - As part of the process for developing the net zero plan, the Government will determine Australia's next medium-term target for reducing emissions by 2035. The Paris Agreement requires all parties, including Australia, to submit their next Nationally Determined Contributions - including a 2035 emission reduction target - in 2025.

ENERGY PRICE RELIEF

Questions about the mandatory code of conduct should be directed to the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW).

Implementation of domestic thermal coal price caps is the responsibility of the NSW and Queensland Governments.

Questions about coal interventions, and the Commonwealth's contribution to compensation for energy generators and coal producers, should be directed to DCCEEW.

Headline Statement

- The Australian Government has a temporary price cap on the sale of wholesale gas in-place until 22 December 2023; has implemented a mandatory Gas Market Code (the Code); and has worked with states to cap the price of domestic thermal coal to address forecast energy price rises.

Key Points

- The Australian Government introduced the Energy Price Relief Plan in December 2022 to limit gas and thermal coal prices; provide targeted energy bill relief for households and businesses; and drive investment in cleaner, cheaper, and more reliable energy.
- The Government introduced a temporary cap on the price of wholesale gas sold domestically for 12 months and has implemented a mandatory Code of Conduct for the sale of wholesale gas to ensure that east coast gas users can contract for gas at reasonable prices and on reasonable terms.
- The Government has worked with the NSW and Queensland Governments to set an effective price cap of \$125 per tonne on thermal coal used for domestic electricity generation in those states.
- The NSW Government capped the price of thermal coal sold to domestic power stations and implemented a reservation scheme for thermal coal to ensure coal supply continues to meet the needs of domestic coal powered energy generation.
- On 6 September 2023, following a review, the NSW Government announced it would not extend the price cap or reservation scheme when they expire on 1 July 2024.

Contact Officer:

Name: s47F(1)
Division: Oil and Gas Division
Telephone: s47E(d)
Last updated: 12/10/2023 8:42:00 AM

- Instead, the NSW Government intends to increase coal royalty rates by 2.6 percentage points.
- Royalty changes in QLD (2022) and NSW (September 2023) are a matter for these jurisdictions.
 - The Australian Government does not determine coal royalty rates.
 - But we do agree policy decisions should ensure a fair return to the Australian people for the development of our resources.

Policy Commitments

- The 12-month temporary price cap is in place until 22 December 2023.
- Reforms to the Australian Domestic Gas Security Mechanism reforms took effect on 1 April 2023.
- On 11 July 2023, the mandatory Code of Conduct commenced for the wholesale gas market.
 - The two-month transition period ended on 11 September 2023.
 - The Code includes a reasonable price mechanism, conduct provisions and an exemptions framework designed to incentivise new investment in domestic supply.
- The NSW and Queensland Governments have implemented price caps on domestic thermal coal.
 - The Australian Government contributed to the costs of implementing the price caps and supporting coal supply.

Background

- The Australian Government partnered with states and territories to:
 - deliver the Energy Price Relief Plan to address the immediate impact of price increases on Australian households and small businesses; and
 - provide a total of \$3 billion in targeted electricity bill relief to consumers hardest hit by rising prices, including small businesses.
- Under the Energy Price Relief Plan, the Government worked with the NSW and Queensland Governments to set an effective price cap on thermal coal of \$125 per tonne. This applies to thermal coal which is used for domestic energy generation in these states. The coal price caps are temporary and weren implemented by the NSW and Queensland Governments. State-specific interventions reflect the different market structures in each state.

PEP-11

Headline Statement

- The Federal Court of Australia has made orders to quash the Joint Authority decision in relation to the offshore exploration permit PEP-11. Asset Energy's applications have now been remitted to the Joint Authority for reconsideration in due course.

Key Points

- On 14 February 2023, the Court made orders setting aside the decision made by the Commonwealth-New South Wales Offshore Petroleum Joint Authority (Joint Authority) in relation to PEP-11 and the decision has been remitted to the Joint Authority.
- These orders set aside the Joint Authority's decision on the ground that it was affected by a reasonable apprehension of bias.

If asked about the costs

- The Court made an order that the Commonwealth pay Asset Energy's legal costs as agreed or assessed.
- The Commonwealth agreed to a proposal from Asset Energy for the payment of costs in the sum of \$121,608.00 (GST not applicable).
- *If asked as to costs incurred by the department:* The costs to the department associated with the legal proceedings (excluding the settlement costs agreed with Asset Energy) were \$183,260.92.
- The total cost to the Commonwealth was \$304,868.92.

If asked about timing on a new decision/status of the application

- Any future decision is a matter for the Joint Authority and will be determined after fair and impartial consideration of the application.
- The National Electronic Approvals Tracking System (NEATS) accurately reflects the current status of the applications – which is that they are with the Joint Authority for decision.

Contact Officer:

Name: Norelle Laucher
Division: Oil and Gas Division
Telephone: s47E(d)
Last updated: 25/10/2023 7:52:00 AM

If asked about NOPTA's assessment/recommendation to the Joint Authority

- As the material relates to the decisions that are currently before the Joint Authority, it would be inappropriate for me to comment on its contents.

If asked about who the Commonwealth decision-maker will be

- The decision will be made by the Joint Authority.
- The current intention is that the Minister for Resources will be the decision-maker for the Commonwealth.

If asked about the second application

- Asset Energy has made two applications to the Joint Authority in relation to the PEP-11 title. These will be considered in the order of submission.

Matters that should not be raised or commented on

- s42(1), s47C(1)
- s42(1), s47C(1)
- If pushed for more details on NOPTA's assessment, take the question on notice.

Background

- In January 2020, Asset Energy applied to the Joint Authority for a suspension and variation to the conditions of the PEP-11 permit to allow additional time to drill an exploration well and remove the requirement for a seismic survey.
- The Joint Authority refused the application on 26 March 2022 and NOPTA advised Asset Energy of the Joint Authority's decision on 30 March 2022.
 - The Joint Authority is a body constituted by the responsible Commonwealth Minister and the responsible State Minister. The Commonwealth member of the Joint Authority was the former Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP.
- On 1 June 2022, Asset Energy filed an application for judicial review in the Federal Court.

The Bell Inquiry

- On 25 November 2022, the Hon Virginia Bell AC delivered her Report on the Inquiry into the appointment of the former Prime Minister to multiple ministries to the Government.
- Ms Bell made six recommendations centred on improving public transparency of both substantive and acting appointments. The Government has agreed to implement the Inquiry Report recommendations.
- Implementation of the recommendations is being led by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

BAROSSA AND SCARBOROUGH - LEGAL CHALLENGES

Headline Statement

- Legal challenges regarding consultation with relevant persons by the offshore oil and gas industry are having significant financial and timing impacts for projects.

Key Points

- Offshore exploration and development activities have been significantly delayed over the last 12 months due to legal challenges to Environment Plan approvals.

Barossa

- In December 2022, the full Federal Court upheld a September 2022 decision to overturn the National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority's (NOPSEMA) acceptance of the Santos' Barossa Drilling Environment Plan (EP) due to inadequate consultation with Traditional Owners in the Tiwi Islands.
- The court ruled that the category of persons required to be consulted by a titleholder during the development of an Environment Plan should be determined broadly.
 - The judgement has meant that industry has been required to undertake significantly more consultation on proposed activities than in the past.

Scarborough

- Separately, in September 2023 the Federal Court found that NOPSEMA did not have the authority to accept Woodside's Scarborough Environment Plan, with conditions, when NOPSEMA was not reasonably satisfied that the required consultation had occurred.
 - As the decision to accept the Scarborough EP was set aside, the EP reverts to being under assessment. NOPSEMA will now recommence the assessment process.

Contact Officer:

Name: Catherine Kesteven
Division: Oil & Gas Division
Telephone: s47E(d)
Last updated: 5/10/2023 8:05:00 AM

Policy Review

- In the May 2023 Budget, the Government committed to a review of the offshore environmental management policy settings, which will include consideration of consultation requirements in the context of the Barossa Court decision and upcoming reforms to National Environmental Legislation.
 - The department will undertake a review of the offshore environment policy settings to consider consultation requirements and align with reforms to National Environmental Legislation under the Nature Positive Plan.
- The Nature Positive Plan includes the development of new National Environmental Standards for community and First Nations consultation.
- Genuine, robust consultation with all relevant persons, including First Nations Australians, is an important requirement of the offshore regulatory regime.

Background

Federal Court decisions on the Barossa Drilling Environment Plan

- On 14 March 2022, NOPSEMA accepted the *Barossa Drilling Environment Plan*.
- On 3 June 2022, Mr Dennis Murphy Tipakalippa lodged an application with the Federal Court for judicial review of NOPSEMA's decision to accept the Barossa Drilling Environment Plan.
- On 21 September 2022, Justice Bromberg ruled that NOPSEMA's decision to accept the Barossa Drilling Environment Plan was legally invalid.
- Santos filed a notice of appeal on 27 September 2022. The appeal was heard on 15 and 16 November 2022. The judgement was handed down on 2 December 2022.

Woodside Energy Scarborough Seismic Survey

- On 31 July 2023, NOPSEMA accepted, with eight conditions, an environment plan (EP) from Woodside for the Scarborough B1 Marine Seismic Survey.
 - Seven conditions relate to consultation matters, one relates to impacts on marine life.
 - Woodside included control measures in the EP to ensure the protection of whales, turtles, and other marine life.
- On 17 August 2023, NOPSEMA was served with an application for judicial review of the decision to accept the EP, claiming that NOPSEMA did not have statutory power to make the decision to approve the EP for the proposed seismic survey and that Woodside had not complied with the conditions requiring Woodside to consult with her and others as relevant persons.
- On 28 September 2023, Justice Colvin ruled that NOPSEMA did not have the statutory authority to make the decision to accept the Scarborough EP with conditions when NOPSEMA was not reasonably satisfied that the required consultation under regulation 11A of the *Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage (Environment) Regulations 2009* had occurred. The Court declared that the decision was invalid and ordered that the decision be set aside.

FUTURE GAS STRATEGY

Headline Statement

- The Australian Government is developing a Future Gas Strategy to help us plan for the future and support both Australia's and our region's transition to net zero.

Key Points

- The Future Gas Strategy will support Australia's energy system to become cleaner, cheaper, and more reliable while maintaining our international reputation as a trusted energy supplier to the region.
- A consultation paper was released on 3 October 2023, with public consultation open till 13 November 2023.
 - The department is consulting widely to consider the needs of all gas market participants, our trade and investment partners, communities, workers, unions and First Nations peoples.
- The Strategy is scheduled to be published in mid-2024.

Policy Commitments

- The Government announced \$6.7 million to fund work on the Future Gas Strategy over four years from FY2023-24 (Budget Paper No.2, page 170).
- The Strategy will:
 - Support decarbonisation of the Australian economy.
 - Promote Australia's energy security and affordability.
 - Enhance Australia's reputation as an attractive trade and investment destination; and
 - Help our trade partners on their own paths to net zero.

Contact Officer:

Name: Shevaun Fitzmyers
Division: Oil and Gas
Telephone: s47E(d)
Last updated: 4/10/2023 8:27:00 AM

Background

Gas supply-demand balances and regulatory interventions in Australia's gas market

- The ACCC's Gas inquiry September 2023 interim report states that Australia's east coast gas market is expected to have enough supply to meet overall demand in 2024. The market remains finely balanced until 2027, with shortfalls anticipated beyond this date.
- The Australian Government has taken steps over the last 12 months to secure adequate supply at reasonable prices through a series of market interventions.
 - Following on from the Energy Price Relief Plan announced late last year, the Mandatory Gas Code of Conduct came into force on 11 July 2023.
 - The Code seeks to address concern, highlighted by the ACCC, that domestic gas supply will decline faster than gas demand on the east coast of Australia over the next decade. The release of the Code will support continued investment in new gas projects.
- Other reforms impacting the gas sector include to the Safeguard Mechanism and the Petroleum Resource Rent Tax (PRRT).
 - Safeguard reforms, commencing 1 July 2023, will reduce emissions at Australia's largest industrial facilities to net zero by 2050 and maintain their international competitiveness as the world decarbonises. New gas fields suppling existing LNG facilities would have a zero baseline for reservoir CO₂ emissions. Existing gas facilities that only supply domestic gas users and are backfilled by a new gas field would not have a zero reservoir CO₂ emissions baseline. Instead, existing gas facilities will have a site-specific emissions-intensity baseline set using historical data.
 - PRRT reforms increase tax receipts from Australia's offshore oil and gas producers. Treasury released draft legislation to introduce a cap on the use of deductions on 21 August 2023 with responses closing on 15 September 2023 (refer to [EC23-002273](#)).

Investment and trade partner reactions

- Finalisation of a number of reforms over the last year clarify future investment conditions. These reforms also provide strong incentives to reduce emissions from the oil and gas sector and will encourage investment in new supply to meet energy needs.
 - Continued investment is required to develop gas resources. The gas industry in Australia relies on large scale private investment sourced from competitive global capital markets.
 - Recent merger and acquisition activity gives us confidence that Australia's oil and gas sector remains an attractive investment destination. This includes EIG's acquisition of Origin Energy's gas assets and BP's acquisition of Shell's Browse Project; as well as positive signals from East Coast producers such a Senex Energy and Beach Energy on their domestic gas supply projects.
- Through the Future Gas Strategy, officers from the department and DFAT have briefed representatives of partner governments regarding the public consultation process for Future Gas Strategy, both in Canberra and through Australia's diplomatic network
 - The views of our trading partners are an important element to the Strategy as it aims to identify the role of gas through the energy transition for domestic and international economies across the medium term (to 2035) and long term (2050).

NATIONAL RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITY

Headline Statement

- The Government remains firmly committed to safely storing and disposing of Australia's radioactive waste.

Key Points

- On 18 July 2023, the Federal Court set aside the former Minister's declaration made in November 2021 that the National Radioactive Waste Management Facility (the Facility) would be located at Napandee, near the town of Kimba.
- On 10 August 2023, the Minister for Resources, the Hon Madeleine King MP, (the Minister) made a statement to Parliament that:
 - the Minister does not intend to appeal the Court's decision; and
 - the Government is no longer pursuing Napandee or other previously shortlisted sites at Lyndhurst or Wallerberdina as potential sites for the Facility.
- The Government remains committed to safely storing and disposing of our radioactive waste and is determined to get this right.
 - On 10 August 2023, the Minister stated that the department has begun work on alternative proposals for the storage and disposal of the Commonwealth's civilian low-level (LLW) and intermediate-level (ILW) radioactive waste.
 - Proposals for particular sites for a Facility are not being considered at this time.
 - A process and timeframes for selecting a new site for the Facility will be determined once the Government has considered options and made decisions in due course.
- The Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) can and will continue to operate, including production of nuclear medicine.
 - ANSTO currently safely manages a majority of Australia's radioactive waste at their Lucas Heights campus while a permanent disposal pathway is developed.
 - ANSTO have confirmed they will take the necessary steps to ensure sufficient storage capacity for their radioactive waste until a purpose-built disposal facility is established.

Contact Officer:

Name: s47F(1)
Division: Australian Radioactive Waste Agency
Telephone: s47E(d)
Last updated: 3/10/2023 1:59:00 PM

- Cultural heritage at the previously declared site is being protected.
 - Site characterisation activities at and around the former site near Kimba have ceased. Previous activities were non-permanent and will be reversed or remediated.
 - The site is being managed to ensure it remains safe and cultural heritage is protected.
 - Further information on disposal of the land will be available once the Government has considered options and made decisions in due course.
- The Government recognises the uncertainty created for the Kimba community.
 - The Government intends to honour existing contracts for the Community Benefit Program round 3 grants, which fund Kimba community projects that increase social cohesion and economic diversity.
 - Any other funding would be subject to a decision of Government.

Policy Commitments

- In the 2023-24 Budget, the Government committed long-term funding to support a responsible and sustainable approach for the long-term management and permanent disposal of the Commonwealth's radioactive waste.
 - This includes \$162.2 million over seven years from 2023–24 to continue preparatory work for the establishment of the Facility.
 - Further information about future expenditure will be available once the Government has considered options and made decisions in due course.

Background

- Timeline of events
 - 26 November 2021: former Minister for Resources and Water, the Member for Hinkler, declared former farming land at Napandee, near the town of Kimba, in South Australia, as the proposed site for the Facility.
 - December 2021: Traditional Custodians of the land at Napandee, the Barngarla people, exercised their right to judicial review of the former Minister's declaration.
 - 18 July 2023, the Federal Court set aside the site declaration because the Court found apprehended bias present in the decision of the former Minister.
 - 10 August 2023: Minister for Resources, the Hon Madeleine King MP, announced in Parliament that the Government does not intend to pursue the site at Napandee or the previously shortlisted sites at Lyndhurst or Wallerberdina as potential sites for the Facility.
- Between 1 July 2014 and 11 August 2023, the Commonwealth expended approximately \$108.6 million (excluding GST) towards establishing the Facility. This includes facility design works, legal costs, community grant programs and all nomination, siting and engagement activities for nominated and declared sites. Some of this work will contribute towards future site selection and the establishment of a Facility, regardless of its location.

MARALINGA & RUM JUNGLE REHABILITATION PROJECTS

Headline Statement

- The Government is supporting rehabilitation at the Rum Jungle former uranium mine site (NT) and the Maralinga former atomic weapons test site (SA).

Key Points

Rum Jungle

- The Australian Government is working with the NT Government to rehabilitate Rum Jungle's heavy metals water contamination and surface hazards and risks.
 - The Australian Government is the funder of the project and performs project assurance and oversight.
 - The NT Government is the project proponent and is responsible for delivering the project, including gaining necessary approvals, procurement and stakeholder engagement.
- Funding for the NT Government to deliver the project was announced in the 2021-22 Budget.
 - The funding envelope is not for publication to ensure a competitive tendering process for the NT Government.
 - Funding is managed via a Federation Funding Agreement with the NT Government.
 - The project is in its preliminaries and planning phase with substantive works potentially commencing in 2024.
- The Australian Government's primary objectives for the project are:
 - environmental rehabilitation of the former Rum Jungle Mine site and surrounding impacted areas;
 - restoration of the Traditional Owner's cultural value of the land; and
 - setting conditions that would enable the eventual resolution of the longstanding Finnis River Land Claim over the mine site.

Contact Officer:

Name: Matthew Crawshaw
Division: Minerals and Resources Division
Telephone: s47E(d)
Last updated: 24/10/2023 1:39:00 PM

- Rum Jungle is NT crown land. The ongoing contamination of the site has prevented its grant as aboriginal land to the Kungarakan and Warai people, as recommended by the Aboriginal Land Commissioner in 1981.

Maralinga

- Under the *2009 Maralinga Nuclear Test Site Handback Deed*, the Australian Government is obligated in perpetuity to ensure the former British atomic weapons test sites at Maralinga remains safe for agreed and intended land use.
- Funding for the Maralinga Site Maintenance Project was announced in the 2021-22 MYEFO.
- The radiological waste cleaned up in the 1990s rehabilitation project remains safely isolated in burial trenches at Maralinga. This project concerns remediating non-radiological safety hazards and failing debris pits in Maralinga.
 - The funding envelope is not for publication to ensure a competitive tendering process for the Australian Government.
- The Australian Government is the project proponent and is responsible for project implementation.
 - Project planning is on track with a focus on obtaining necessary approvals, procurement of a Remediation Works Contractor and stakeholder engagement, with substantive works to commence in 2025.
 - The former test sites are on Maralinga Tjarutja (pronounced ‘Jarrah cha’) Aboriginal lands. All works are being done in accordance with a Remediation Action Plan supported by Maralinga’s Traditional Owners.
- The Australian Government’s primary objectives for the project are:
 - reduce potential harm to the health and safety of humans and the environment to an acceptable level; and
 - render the site suitable to meet the cultural, social and economic expectations of current and future custodians of the land.
- In addition to the Maralinga Site Maintenance Project, the Australian Government also funds ongoing monitoring and maintenance activities at the site to support current and future Traditional Owner land use aspirations.

UPDATE ON IMPLEMENTING THE POSITIONING AUSTRALIA PROGRAM

Headline Statement

- Geoscience Australia is providing world-class satellite positioning capability in Australia through delivery of a Satellite-Based Augmentation System (SBAS), known as SouthPAN, and the National Positioning Infrastructure Capability (NPIC). As an integrated program, the Positioning Australia capability represents ongoing Government investment of, on average, \$83.6 million per year (comprising \$71.8 million for SouthPAN and \$11.7 million for NPIC, respectively).
- Geoscience Australia cannot comment on details of the SouthPAN satellite geostationary payload procurements due to probity constraints.

Key Points

- Geoscience Australia is delivering positioning data, which will be accurate to as little as 10 centimetres in every corner of Australia and offshore, and 3 to 5 centimetres in areas of mobile phone coverage. Positioning accuracy prior to this investment was around 5 to 10 metres. To date this program has:
 - signed a 19-year contract for SouthPAN with Lockheed Martin Australia on 13 September 2022, in partnership with Toitū Te Whenua (Land Information New Zealand), for AUD\$1.18 billion.
 - commenced SouthPAN early Open Services across Australia and New Zealand, which went live on 26 September 2022. Industry and the community can now access the benefits of accurate and reliable positioning services to increase safety, improve productivity and drive innovation. It can immediately integrate with existing equipment or products to create or enhance positioning service offerings to end users.
 - concluded procurement for SouthPAN's navigation transponder hosted on a satellite in Geostationary Earth Orbit on 1 May 2023.
 - released an approach to market for a second navigation transponder, required for safety-of-life applications, due to close on 25 January 2024.
 - delivered a unified national network of positioning infrastructure (~700 stations), through expansion of the existing Commonwealth owned network

Contact Officer:

Name: Martine Woolf
 Division: Space division, Geoscience Australia
 Telephone: s47E(d)
 Last updated: 29/09/2023 9:53:00 AM

and formalised agreements with 10 government and commercial network operators. The data streams from these stations are openly accessible via secure digital platforms to government, business and academic services.

- released the open-source software positioning toolkit, Ginan. Ginan provides software tools able to analyse positioning data and provide real-time products that increase positioning accuracy for industry applications from metres to centimetres.
- Between 17 and 21 April 2023 there was an unplanned service outage of the Inmarsat I-4F1 Satellite which affected a range of positioning, navigation and timing services including SouthPAN. Geoscience Australia are in the process of procuring two satellite geostationary payloads that will provide redundancy for SouthPAN to continue to broadcast during outages.
- As part of the annual audit work of the Industry, Science and Resources program portfolio, the Australian National Audit Office is auditing the effectiveness of Geoscience Australia’s 2020 to 2022 procurement of SouthPAN. The audit commenced in April 2023 with the report due to be tabled in December 2023. Geoscience Australia is engaging with Australian National Audit Office on the audit and welcomes the opportunity to learn from the SouthPAN procurement.

Background

- SouthPAN’s SBAS is a system of space and ground infrastructure that augments positioning signals provided by GPS and other global navigation satellite systems to significantly improve accuracy and reliability. SouthPAN overcomes gaps in mobile and radio communications by delivering data to users via satellite, including in remote and rural Australia.
- NPIC is a network of reference station infrastructure to track, verify and optimise data for precise positioning across Australia. NPIC coordinates existing industry and state, territory and local government infrastructure to reduce coverage gaps in areas with mobile phone coverage. New reference stations are being constructed to infill coverage gaps.

Key Milestone	Due date
SouthPAN: 10 cm accuracy of positioning service across Australia and its maritime zones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety-of-life services expected in 2028. • Concluded first satellite geostationary payload procurement, navigation transponder expected in 2028. • An approach to market for a second payload is underway, due to close 25 January 2024.
NPIC: 3-5 cm accuracy of positioning service for areas with mobile phone coverage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A unified network supports 3-5 cm accurate positioning in areas of mobile phone coverage. • Upgrade and expansion of Commonwealth owned and operated stations (~200 stations) underway with delivery by December 2023.
Ginan: Open-source tools and software to support use of positioning, navigation and timing (PNT) services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ginan V2.0 is operational and deployed as part of NPIC. • Additional features and products will be progressively added.

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HEARING PROGRAM

Supplementary Estimates 2023–24 Economics Legislation Committee

Wednesday, 25 October and Thursday, 26 October 2023

Committee Room 2R1, Parliament House, Canberra

Times listed are indicative only



Hearing location

Committee Room 2R1,

Parliament House, Canberra

Waiting room: Committee Room 2R2

Overflow waiting room: Committee Room 1S1



Committee members

Senator Jess Walsh (Chair)

Senator Andrew Bragg (Deputy Chair)

Senator Deborah O'Neill

Senator Jana Stewart

Senator Nick McKim

Senator Dean Smith



Broadcasts of proceedings

Television channel 109

Radio 98.3

[https://www.aph.gov.au/News and Events/Watch Parliament](https://www.aph.gov.au/News_and_Events/Watch_Parliament)



Contact

economics.sen@aph.gov.au

+61 2 6277 3540

Committee rooms

Committee Room 2R1: (02) 6277 2986

Committee Room 2R2: (02) 6277 2270

Ministers attending

TBC

Secretariat

Mr Alan Raine, Committee Secretary

Ms Nicola Kosseck, Principal Research Officer

Ms Tegan Scott, Principal Research Officer

Ms Rachel Benzie, Senior Research Officer

Mr Michael Finch, Senior Research Officer

Mr Jai Maybury, Research Officer

Ms Adelaide Hutchins, Research Officer

Mr Kieran Knox, Administrative Officer

Wednesday, 25 October 2023

Treasury Portfolio

9.00am (120 mins)	<p>Department of the Treasury Including Dr Steven Kennedy PSM (until 11am)</p> <p>Macroeconomic Group</p> <p>International and Foreign Investment Group Including the Foreign Investment Review Board</p>
11.00am	Break (15)
11.15am (30 mins)	<p>Department of the Treasury</p> <p>Macroeconomic Group (Cont.)</p> <p>International and Foreign Investment Group (Cont.) Including the Foreign Investment Review Board</p>
11.45pm (45 mins)	<p>Department of the Treasury</p> <p>Small Business, Housing, Corporate and Law Group</p>
12.30pm (45mins)	<p>Department of the Treasury</p> <p>Fiscal Group Job Summit and Employment White Paper Task Force</p>
1.15pm	Lunch (60)
2.15pm (60mins)	<p>Department of the Treasury</p> <p>Markets Group</p>
3.15pm (90 mins)	<p>Department of the Treasury</p> <p>Revenue Group</p> <p>Australian Taxation Office</p> <p>Tax Practitioners Board</p> <p>Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission</p>
4.45pm	Break (15)
5.00pm (15 mins)	Inspector-General of Taxation and Taxation Ombudsman
5.15pm (60 mins)	Australian Prudential Regulation Authority
6.15pm (60 mins)	Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
7.15pm	Dinner (60)

8.15pm (30 mins)	Housing Australia (formerly National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation)
8.45pm (30 mins)	Australian Reinsurance Pool Corporation
9.15pm	Break (15)
9.30pm (30mins)	Productivity Commission
10.00pm (30 mins)	Australian Bureau of Statistics
10.30pm (30 mins)	Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman
11.00pm	Adjournment

Thursday, 26 October 2023

Treasury Portfolio

9.00am (90 mins)	Reserve Bank of Australia
10.30am (30 mins)	Australian Securities and Investments Commission
11.00am	Break (15)
11.15am (60 mins)	Australian Securities and Investments Commission (Cont.)

Industry, Science, and Resources Portfolio

12.15pm (30 mins)	Department of Industry, Science and Resources Corporate, Enabling and Business Services
12.45pm (30 mins)	<p>Department of Industry, Science and Resources</p> <p>Outcome 1: Support economic growth, productivity, and job creation for all Australians by investing in science, technology and commercialisation, growing innovative and competitive businesses, industries and regions, and supporting resources.</p> <p>Program 1.3: Supporting a strong resources sector</p> <p><i>Topics and entities</i></p> <p>Minerals and Resources</p> <p>Oil and Gas</p>
1.15pm	Lunch (60)

<p>2.15pm (90 mins)</p>	<p>Department of Industry, Science and Resources</p> <p>Outcome 1: Support economic growth, productivity, and job creation for all Australians by investing in science, technology and commercialisation, growing innovative and competitive businesses, industries and regions, and supporting resources.</p> <p>Program 1.3: Supporting a strong resources sector (Cont.)</p> <p><i>Topics and entities</i></p> <p>Minerals and Resources Oil and Gas</p>
<p>3.45pm (60 mins)</p>	<p>Department of Industry, Science and Resources</p> <p>Outcome 1: (Continued)</p> <p>Program 1.3: Supporting a strong resources sector (Cont.)</p> <p><i>Topics and entities</i></p> <p>Radioactive Waste Management Maralinga Maintenance and Site Remediation Rum Jungle Mine Site – Environmental Rehabilitation Australian Radioactive Waste Agency</p> <p>Program 1.4: Nuclear Powered Submarine Program</p> <p>Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation</p>
<p>4.45pm</p>	<p>Break (15)</p>
<p>5.00pm (60 mins)</p>	<p>National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority</p>
<p>6.00pm (60 mins)</p>	<p>Department of Industry, Science and Resources</p> <p>Outcome 1: (Continued)</p> <p>Program 1.1: Growing innovative and competitive businesses, industries and regions</p> <p>Manufacturing and National Reconstruction Fund Industry Growth Sovereign Capability and Supply Chains Anti-Dumping Commission Australian Building Codes Board Industry Innovation and Science Australia Australian Space Agency</p>
<p>7.00pm</p>	<p>Dinner (60)</p>
<p>8.00pm (30 mins)</p>	<p>National Reconstruction Fund Corporation</p>
<p>8.30pm (30 mins)</p>	<p>Department of Industry, Science and Resources</p> <p>Outcome 1: (Continued)</p> <p>Program 1.2: Investing in science, technology and commercialisation</p> <p>National Measurement Institute Science</p>

	Technology and digital Questacon Commercialisation
9.00pm	Break (15)
9.15pm (60 mins)	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
10.15pm (45 mins)	Geoscience Australia
11.00pm	<i>Adjournment</i>

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2023-2024

WITNESS LIST – 26 OCTOBER 2023

Department of Industry, Science and Resources

Secretary - Meghan Quinn

DISR Corporate – 12:15pm – Thursday, 26 October 2023

Name and title	Attendance
Mr Neal Mason, Deputy Secretary	In person
Mr Robert Jeremenko, Acting Deputy Secretary	In person
Ms Michelle Dowdell, Head of Division, Analysis and Insights	In person
Ms Kate Penney, General Manager, Economic and Industry Analysis	In person
Ms Crystal Ossolinski, General Manager, Resources and Energy Insights	In person
Mr Gavin McCosker, Chief Finance Officer	In person
Ms Erin Cockram, General Manager, External Budgets and Procurement	In person
Ms Simone Boulding, Acting Chief Information Officer	In person
Ms Rebecca Lee, Chief Operating Officer	In person
Ms Deborah Miliszewski, General Counsel	In person
Ms Louise Wallensky, General Manager, Communications	In person
Ms Sam Chard, Head of Division, Business Grants Hub and Integrity	In person
Ms Camille de Burgh, Head of Division, Strategic Policy	In person
Mr James Pitman, Acting General Manager, Ministerial and Executive Enabling	In person
Dr Carolyn Patteson, Head of Division, International Trade and National Security	In person
Ms Alison Drury, General Manager, Trade and International	In person
Mr Richard Samuels, General Manager, International Science and Resources	In person

Outcome 1 (cont'd)

DISR Program 1.3: Supporting a strong resources sector – 12:45pm – Thursday, 26 October 2023

Name and title	Attendance
Mr Robert Jeremenko, Acting Deputy Secretary	In person
Mr Sam Usher, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Radioactive Waste Agency	In person
Ms Jodie Lindsay, General Manager, Social License and Operational Support	In person
Mr Peter Chesworth, Head of Division, Minerals and Resources	In person
Mr Matthew Crawshaw, General Manager, Mining	In person
Ms Victoria Pullen, General Manager, Critical Minerals Office	In person
Mr David Lawrence, Acting Head of Division, Oil and Gas	In person
Mr Shane McWhinney, General Manager, Northern Endeavour	In person
Ms Norelle Laucher, General Manager, Offshore Strategy	In person
Mr William Tan, General Manager, Decommissioning Roadmap Taskforce	In person
Mr Cliff Weeks, General Manager, Offshore Resources	In person
Mr Graeme Waters, General Manager, National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator	In person

Outcome 1 (cont'd)

Program 1.4: Nuclear Powered Submarine Program – 3:45pm – Thursday, 26 October 2023

n/a

Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation – 3:45pm – Thursday, 26 October 2023

Name and title	Attendance
Mr Shaun Jenkinson, Chief Executive Officer	In person
Mr John Edge, Chief Operating Officer	In person
Dr Miles Apperley, Group Executive, Nuclear Safety Security and Stewardship	In person

National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority – 5:00pm – Thursday, 26 October 2023

Name and title	Attendance
Ms Sue McCarrey PSM, Chief Executive Officer	In person
Mr Cameron Grebe, Head of Division, Environment, Renewables and Decommissioning	In person
Mr Derrick O’Keeffe, Head of Division, Safety and Integrity	In person

Program 1.1: Growing innovative and competitive businesses, industries and regions – 6:00pm – Thursday, 26 October 2023

Name and title	Attendance
Ms Julia Pickworth, Deputy Secretary	In person
Ms Jessica Casben, Acting Commissioner, Anti-Dumping Commission	In person
Mr Enrico Palermo, Head of Agency, Australian Space Agency	In person
Ms Dara Williams, Deputy Head of Agency, Australian Space Agency	In person
Mr Christopher de Luis, General Manager, Office of the Space Regulator	In person
Ms Isolde Lueckenhausen, Deputy Commissioner Investigations	In person
Mr David Luchetti, Head of Division, AusIndustry	In person
Mr David Chuter, Executive Director, Industry Growth Program	In person
Mr Gary Rake, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Building Codes Board	In person
Ms Deborah Anton, Head of Division, Industry and Manufacturing	In Person
Mr Kurt Hockey, General Manager, Industrial Net Zero Policy	In person
Ms Donna Looney, Head of Division, Sovereign Capability and Supply Chains	In person
Mr John Krbaleski, General Manager, Industry Participation and Major Projects Facilitation	In person
Ms Jocelyn Cooper, General Manager, Sovereign Capability	In person
Ms Jasminder Higgins, Acting General Manager, NRF Policy and Liaison	In person
Mr Tim Wong, General Manager, Office of Supply Chain Resilience	In person

National Reconstruction Fund Corporation – 8:00pm – Thursday, 26 October 2023

Name and title	Attendance
Ms Rebecca Manen, Acting Chief Executive Officer	In person

Program 1.2: Investing in science, technology, and commercialisation – 8:30pm – Thursday, 26 October 2023

Name and title	Attendance
Ms Helen Wilson, Deputy Secretary	In person
Ms Julia Pickworth, Deputy Secretary	In person
Mr Nick Purtell, Head of Division, Commercialisation	In person
Ms Tara Oliver, General Manager, Research and Development, Tax Incentive	In person
Ms Sandra Roussel, General Manager, Venture Capital and Entrepreneurship	In person
Dr Bruce Warrington, Chief Executive Officer and Chief Metrologist, National Measurement Institute	In person
Ms Jo White, Director, Questacon	In person
Ms Hayley Arbaut-Zaalen, General Manager, Science Strategy and Priorities Taskforce	In person
Ms Natalie Weddell, General Manager, Science Policy and Governance	In person
Ms Janean Richards, Head of Division, Science	Videoconference
Mr Anthony Murfett, Head of Division, Technology and Digital	In person
Mr Lucas Rutherford, General Manager, Technology Strategy	In person
Mr Dan Quinn, General Manager, Enabling Technologies	In person

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation – 9:15pm – Thursday, 26 October 2023

Name and title	Attendance
Professor Doug Hilton, Chief Executive	In person
Mr Tom Munyard, Chief Operating Officer	In person
Dr Peter Mayfield, Executive Director, Environment, Energy and Resources	In person
Professor Elanor Huntington, Executive Director, Digital, National Facilities and Collections	In person
Ms Kirsten Rose, Executive Director, Future Industries	In person
Professor Bronwyn Fox, Chief Scientist	In person
Dr Jack Steele, Director, Science Impact and Policy	In person
Mr Paul Graham, Principal Research Scientist, Energy Economics	In person

Geoscience Australia – 10:15pm – Thursday, 26 October 2023

Name and title	Attendance
Dr James Johnson, Chief Executive Officer	In person
Dr Steve Hill, Chief Scientist and Acting Chief of Division	In person
Dr Andrew Heap, Chief of Minerals, Energy and Groundwater	In person
Ms Alison Rose, Chief of Space	In person
Mr Jonathon Ross, Branch Head, Satellite Land Imaging Collection	In person
Dr Steve Hill, Acting Chief of Place and Communities	In person
Mr Trent Rawlings, Chief of Corporate	In person
Ms Erika Taturan, General Manager, Enabling Services	In person
Mr Clive Rossiter, Chief Information Officer	In person
Mr Michael (Su-Sueh) Koh, Chief Financial Officer	In person
Dr David Robinson, Acting Branch Head, Basin Systems, Minerals, Energy and Groundwater	In person
Dr Verity Normington, Executive Officer, Office of the Chief Scientist	In person
Dr Jodie Smith, Acting Branch Head, Oceans, Reefs, Coasts and Antarctic, Chief of Place and Communities	In person

Economics Legislation Committee Membership

Committee Members



Chair
Senator Jess Walsh
Australian Labor Party, VIC



Senator Deborah O'Neill
Australian Labor Party, NSW



Deputy Chair
Senator Andrew Bragg
Liberal Party of Australia, NSW



Senator Dean Smith
Liberal Party of Australia, WA



Senator Nick McKim
Australian Greens, TAS



Senator Jana Stewart
Australian Labor Party, VIC

Participating Members

Senators Penny Allman-Payne, Alex Antic, Wendy Askew, Ralph Babet, Catryna Bilyk, Slade Brockman, Ross Cadell, Claire Chandler, Raff Ciccone, Dorinda Cox, Perin Davey, Patrick Dodson, Jonathon Duniam, Mehreen Faruqi, Nita Green, Karen Grogan, Pauline Hanson, Sarah Hanson-Young, Sarah Henderson, Hollie Hughes, Jane Hume, Maria Kovacic, Jacqui Lambie, Kerrynne Liddle, Susan McDonald, Nick McKim, Andrew McLachlan, Jacinta Nampijinpa Price, Matt O'Sullivan, James Paterson, Fatima Payman, Marise Payne, Barbara Pocock, David Pocock, Helen Polley, Louise Pratt, Gerard Rennick, Janet Rice, Malcolm Roberts, Paul Scarr, Tony Sheldon, David Shoebridge, Marielle Smith, Jordon Steele-John, Glenn Sterle, Lidia Thorpe, Tammy Tyrrell, Anne Urquhart, David Van, Larissa Waters, Peter Whish-Wilson, Linda White

Updated 5 October 2023

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESOURCES
Organisation Structure | effective 16 October 2023

Ministers	Minister for Resources and Minister for Northern Australia The Hon Madeleine King MP					Minister for Industry and Science The Hon Ed Husic MP				Assistant Minister for Manufacturing and Assistant Minister for Trade Senator the Hon Tim Ayres											
	Secretary Meghan Quinn PSM																				Chief of Staff Judith Blake
Groups	Resources & Strategy Robert Jeremenko (a/g)					Industry & Commercialisation Julia Pickworth				Science & Technology Helen Wilson					Enabling & Business Services Neal Mason						
	Divisions																				
Divisions	Strategic Policy	International, Trade & National Security	Analysis & Insights	Minerals & Resources	Oil & Gas	Industry & Manufacturing	Sovereign Capability & Supply Chains	Commercialisation	AusIndustry	National Measurement Institute	Science	Technology & Digital	Technology Investment Taskforce	Questacon	Chief Finance Officer	Chief Operating Officer	Chief Information Officer	Business Grants Hub & Integrity	Enterprise Bargaining		
	Head of Division Camille de Burgh	Head of Division Dr Carolyn Patteson	Chief Economist Michelle Dowdell	Head of Division Peter Chesworth	Head of Division Shane McWhinney (a/g)	Head of Division Deb Anton	Head of Division Donna Looney	Head of Division Nick Purtell	Head of Division David Luchetti	CEO & Chief Metrologist Dr Bruce Warrington	Head of Division Janean Richards	Head of Division Anthony Murfett	Head of Division Anthony McGregor	Head of Division Jo White	Head of Division Gavin McCosker	Head of Division Rebecca Lee	Head of Division Simone Boulding (a/g)	Head of Division Sam Chard	Head of Division Leanne Yannopoulos		
Branches	Budget & Portfolio Policy Tracey Mackay (a/g)	Trade & International Alison Drury	Economic & Industry Analysis Kate Penney	Resources Strategy Casey Millward	Offshore Resources Cliff Weeks	Sector Development Louise Talbot	Office of Supply Chain Resilience Tim Wong	Research & Development Tax Incentive Tara Oliver	Business Outreach & Engagement Sarah Howard	Physical Metrology Dr Jan Herrmann	Science Policy & Governance Natalie Weddell	Enabling Technologies Dan Quinn	Technology Investment Dianna Gaetjens	Operations Steve Stirling	Financial & Shared Services Kirsty Bunfield	Legal Deborah Miliszewski	ICT Operations Stewart McGill	Internal Programs Kimberley Shives			
	Ministerial & Executive Enabling James Pitman (a/g)	National Security Engagement Andy Matz	Data & Evaluation Scott Clouder (a/g)	Mining Matt Crawshaw	Offshore Strategy Norelle Laucher	Industrial Net Zero Transformation Kurt Hockey	Industry Participation & Major Project Facilitation John Krbaleski	Venture Capital & Entrepreneurship Sandra Roussel	Industry Growth Program Rebecca Lannen	Analytical Services Tim Stobaus	Research & Collaboration Linda Lee	Critical Technologies Hub Jessica Foote		Science & Learning Dr Bobby Cerini	Financial Management Jane Childs	People Tanja Watson	Digital Strategy & Cyber Security Somers Bloomfield (a/g)	External Programs Noel Taloni (a/g)			
Branches	Whole of Government Policy & Priorities Naomi Perdomo	International Science & Resources Richard Samuels	Resources & Energy Insights Crystal Ossolinski	Critical Minerals Office Victoria Pullen	Northern Endeavour Andrea De Leon Ewers (a/g)	Industrial Net Zero Policy James Flick (a/g)	Batteries Jocelyn Cooper	Office of Industry Innovation & Science Australia Tanya Blight	Industry Growth Executive Director David Chuter	Chemical & Biological Metrology Dr Lindsey Mackay	Office of the Chief Scientist Paula Perrett	Quantum Michele Graham			External Budgets & Procurement Erin Cockram	Communications Louise Wallensky	Digital Services for Business Andrea Cross	Integrity Derek Stiller			
				Special Advisor, Critical Minerals Office Damien Dunn	National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator Graeme Waters	Future Transport & Infrastructure Policy Maxine Loynd	NRF Policy & Liaison Jasminder Higgins (a/g)			Legal Metrology Bill Loizides	Astronomy Caroline Quan (a/g)	Technology Strategy Lucas Rutherford				Property Sue Cattermole					
Portfolio Entities	Australian Radioactive Waste Agency (ARWA) CEO Sam Usher					ANTI DUMPING COMMISSION Dr Bradley Armstrong PSM	AUSTRALIAN BUILDING CODES BOARD Gary Rake CEO	AUSTRALIAN SPACE AGENCY Enrico Palermo Agency Head Dara Williams Deputy Head of Agency													
	Social License & Operational Support Jodie Lindsay	Safety & Technical Amanda Fortanier (a/g)				Investigations Isolde Lueckenhausen				Office of the Space Regulator Chris De Luis	Space Policy Chris Hewett										
Portfolio Entities	National Offshore Petroleum Safety & Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) Sue McCarrey CEO					IP Australia Michael Schwager Director-General		Industry Innovation and Science Australia Chair Mr Andrew Stevens		Commonwealth Scientific & Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) Doug Hilton, Chief Executive		Australan Nuclear Science & Technology Organisation (ANSTO) Shaun Jenkinson CEO									
						NRF Corporation CEO - Vacant				National Space Capability, Technology & Programs Aude Vignelles (a/g)											



**THE HON ED HUSIC MP
MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY AND SCIENCE**

MS23-000950

09 AUG 2023

Senator the Hon Sue Lines
President of the Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear President *Sue,*

Pursuant to the continuing Senate Order for the production of indexed lists of departmental and agency files, I wish to advise that the indexed lists of departmental and agency files (period 1 January to 30 June 2023) for the Industry and Science Portfolio have been placed on the respective departmental and agency websites.

Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation	www.ansto.gov.au/access-to-information
CSIRO	www.csiro.au/en/about/Corporate-governance/Access-to-information/indexed-list-of-agency-files-Harradine-Report
IP Australia	www.ipaustralia.gov.au/about-us/accountability-and-reporting/Harradine-reports
Department of Industry, Science and Resources	www.industry.gov.au/accessing-information/indexed-list-files

Minister King will table a letter for the Resources function of the Department of Industry, Science and Resources (DISR). Minister Bowen will table a separate letter for indexed file list titles relating to the Energy and Climate Change functions created by DISR on behalf of the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water. Relevant files will be published on the DISR website.

Ms Linda Nelson is the contact officer in the department for the file list and can be contacted on (02) 6276 1629.

Yours sincerely

Ed Husic MP



THE HON ED HUSIC MP
MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY AND SCIENCE

MS23-001089

27 AUG 2023

Senator the Hon Sue Lines
President of the Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear President *Sue,*

Pursuant to the Senate Order for Entity Contracts, of 20 June 2001 (amended 1 July 2017), I wish to advise that entities I administer have placed a list of contracts at or above \$100,000 (GST inclusive), which have not been fully performed or which have been entered into in the 12 months prior to 30 June 2023, on their respective internet websites.

The location of the lists are as follows:

- IP Australia – www.ipaustralia.gov.au.
- Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO) – www.ansto.gov.au.
- Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) – www.csiro.au; and

The following entities' contract listings do not fully comply with the requirements of paragraph (2) of the Order for the reasons outlined below.

ANSTO:

- 148 contracts, all of which were confidential, have had information partly redacted on the basis that information regarding the name of the employee, start date, end date and salary or settlement information would disclose personal information subject to the *Privacy Act 1988 (Cth)*. This covers employment agreements and other agreements such as settlement agreements entered into with employees.
- 125 contracts have had information partly redacted on the basis that the information was commercially sensitive or would reveal ANSTO pricing or costing information. Disclosure of that information would cause detriment or harm to ANSTO and/or to third parties.

CSIRO:

- 18 contracts, all of which are confidential, were not included on the basis that disclosure may reveal trade secrets which are judged to have the potential to cause detriment to the contractor.
- The names of contractors for 325 contracts have not been included on the basis that the information is commercially sensitive to third parties and harm is likely to be caused by its disclosure.

Procurement contracts conducted by non-corporate Commonwealth entities (NCEs) are not included in the contract listing. All NCE procurement contracts can be found at AusTender, www.tenders.gov.au. The report is titled 'Entity Reports for complying with the Senate Order on Procurement Contracts and use of Confidentiality Provisions'.

The contact officer for the listings is Kiley Hamad who may be contacted on (02) 6213 6057.

Yours sincerely



Ed Husic MP



**THE HON ED HUSIC MP
MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY AND SCIENCE**

MS23-001472

16 OCT 2023

Senator the Hon Sue Lines
President of the Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear President

Sue,

Pursuant to Senate Procedural Order 15 on Portfolio Appointments and Vacancies, please find enclosed a report covering the Industry and Science portfolio for appointments made from 2 May to 2 October 2023, including existing vacancies that are intended to be filled.

If you require further information, please contact Mr James Pitman, A/g General Manager, Ministerial and Executive Enabling Branch in the Department of Industry, Science and Resources on (02) 6213 6074 or by emailing appointments@industry.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

A blue ink signature of Ed Husic MP, written in a cursive style.

Ed Husic MP

Enc



Senate Order 15 Portfolio Appointments and Vacancies Report

Minister for Industry and Science

2 May 2023 to 2 October 2023

Appointments

Commonwealth body	Appointee & Position Type	Term Start	Term End	Remuneration	State or Territory Residence
Anti-Dumping Review Panel	Ms Jaclyne Fisher Acting Senior Member	01/09/2023	25/02/2024	\$3,500 (per diem)	NSW
Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation Board	Associate Professor Sze Ting Lee Member	20/07/2023	19/07/2026	\$54,810 (per annum)	VIC
Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation Board	Professor Emma Johnston Member	22/08/2023	21/08/2027	\$80,160 (per annum)	NSW
Cooperative Research Centres Advisory Committee	Ms Jodie Bricout Member	04/05/2023	03/05/2026	\$1,247 (per diem)	SA
Joint Accreditation System of Australia/New Zealand	Ms Jeanette Roberts Acting Chair	31/07/2023	30/10/2023	-	WA
National Reconstruction Fund Corporation Board	Mr Martijn Wilder AM Chair	18/09/2023	31/09/2027	\$128,120 (per annum)	NSW
National Reconstruction Fund Corporation Board	Mr Ahmed Fahour AO Member	18/09/2023	31/09/2026	\$63,690 (per annum)	VIC
National Reconstruction Fund Corporation Board	Dr Katharine Giles (McHenry) Member	18/09/2023	31/09/2027	\$63,690 (per annum)	WA
National Reconstruction Fund Corporation Board	The Hon Kelly O'Dwyer Member	18/09/2023	31/09/2027	\$63,690 (per annum)	VIC
National Reconstruction Fund Corporation Board	Mr Daniel Petre AO Member	18/09/2023	31/09/2026	\$63,690 (per annum)	NSW
National Reconstruction Fund Corporation Board	Ms Kathryn Presser AM Member	18/09/2023	31/09/2026	\$63,690 (per annum)	SA
National Reconstruction Fund Corporation Board	Ms Karen Smith-Pomeroy Member	18/09/2023	31/09/2026	\$63,690 (per annum)	QLD
National Reconstruction Fund Corporation Board	Mr Daniel Walton Member	18/09/2023	31/09/2027	\$63,690 (per annum)	NSW
National Robotics Strategy Advisory Committee	Professor Bronwyn Fox Chair	1/07/2023	31/01/2024	-	VIC
National Robotics Strategy Advisory Committee	Dr Catherine Ball Member	1/07/2023	31/01/2024	-	NSW
National Robotics Strategy Advisory Committee	Professor Hugh Durrant-Whyte Member	1/07/2023	31/01/2024	-	NSW

Commonwealth body	Appointee & Position Type	Term Start	Term End	Remuneration	State or Territory Residence
National Robotics Strategy Advisory Committee	Dr Sue Keay Member	1/07/2023	31/01/2024	-	QLD
National Robotics Strategy Advisory Committee	Mr Andrew Dettmer Member	1/07/2023	31/01/2024	-	QLD
National Robotics Strategy Advisory Committee	Associate Professor Julia Powles Member	1/07/2023	31/01/2024	-	WA
National Robotics Strategy Advisory Committee	Mr Mike Zimmerman Member	1/07/2023	31/01/2024	-	NSW
National Robotics Strategy Advisory Committee	Professor Simon Lucey Member	1/07/2023	31/01/2024	-	SA
Rail Industry Innovation Council	Ms Vicki Brown Member	26/06/2023	06/06/2026	\$11,980 (per annum)	QLD
Rail Industry Innovation Council	The Hon Rachel Nolan Member	30/06/2023	06/06/2026	\$11,980 (per annum)	QLD
Rail Industry Innovation Council	Mr Graham Bentley Member	04/07/2023	06/06/2026	\$11,980 (per annum)	WA
Rail Industry Innovation Council	Ms Katarzyna Stapleton Member	05/07/2023	06/06/2026	-	QLD
Rail Industry Innovation Council	Professor Ravi Ravitharan Member	06/07/2023	06/06/2026	\$11,980 (per annum)	VIC
Rail Industry Innovation Council	Mr Danny Broad Member	07/07/2023	06/06/2026	\$11,980 (per annum)	QLD
Rail Industry Innovation Council	Ms Samantha McWilliam Member	10/07/2023	06/06/2026	\$11,980 (per annum)	NSW
Rail Industry Innovation Council	Mr Glenn Thompson Member	10/07/2023	06/06/2026	\$11,980 (per annum)	VIC
Research and Development Incentives Committee	Mr Clint Collins Member	10/05/2023	09/05/2026	\$1,247 (per diem)	VIC
Research and Development Incentives Committee	Mr Sergio Duchini Member	10/05/2023	09/05/2026	\$1,247 (per diem)	VIC
Research and Development Incentives Committee	Mr Murray Hurps Member	10/05/2023	09/05/2026	\$1,247 (per diem)	NSW
Research and Development Incentives Committee	Ms Patricia White AM* Member	10/05/2023	09/05/2026	\$1,247 (per diem)	SA
Trans-Tasman IP Attorneys Board	Ms Lynell Tuffery Huria Member (NZ Rep)	10/05/2023	09/05/2026	\$938 (per diem)	NZ
Trans-Tasman IP Attorneys Disciplinary Tribunal	Ms Siobhan Ryan President	17/05/2023	16/05/2026	\$1,247 (Per diem)	VIC
Trans-Tasman IP Attorneys Disciplinary Tribunal	Mr André Meyer Member	17/05/2023	16/05/2024	\$938 (per diem)	NSW
Trans-Tasman IP Attorneys Disciplinary Tribunal	Mr Patrick McManamny Member	17/05/2023	16/05/2024	\$938 (per diem)	VIC
Trans-Tasman IP Attorneys Disciplinary Tribunal	Mr Mark Roberts Member	17/05/2023	16/05/2024	\$938 (per diem)	VIC

* Patricia White resigned from the Research and Development Incentives Committee on 25/07/2023

Single Appointments

Commonwealth body	Appointee & Position Type	Term Start	Term End	Remuneration	State or Territory Residence
National Rail Manufacturing Advocate	Ms Jacqui Walters	23/06/2023	06/06/2026	\$470,000 (per annum)	QLD
Chief Scientist of Australia	Dr Cathy Foley	01/01/2024	31/12/2024	\$533,040 (per annum)	NSW

Current Vacancies

Commonwealth body	Vacant Position
Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation	2 x Member
Australian Space Agency Advisory Board	1 x Deputy Chair, 3 x Member
Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation Board	1 x Deputy Chair, 1 x Member
Industry Innovation and Science Australia Board	8 x Member
IISA - Cooperative Research Centres Advisory Committee	2 x Member
IISA - Entrepreneurs' Programme Committee	2 x Member
IISA – Innovation Investment Committee	3 x Member
IISA - Research and Development Incentives Committee	1 x Member
Joint Accreditation System of Australia/New Zealand (JAS-ANZ)	1 x Member
National Science and Technology Council	1 x Member
National Reconstruction Fund Corporation Board	1 x Member
Questacon Advisory Council	1 x Chair, 1 x Deputy Chair, 4 x Member
Silicon Quantum Computing Company Pty Ltd (SQC)*	1 x Member
Trans-Tasman IP Attorneys Disciplinary Tribunal	1 x Member

* SQC is an independent company, in which the Commonwealth Government is a shareholder with the right to appoint a single Commonwealth Appointed Director to the SQC Board.



**THE HON ED HUSIC MP
MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY AND SCIENCE**

MS23-001611

16 OCT 2023

Senator the Hon Sue Lines
President of the Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear President

Sue,
Pursuant to Procedural Order of Continuing Effect 16, please find attached the list of grants approved under the Industry and Science functions of the Industry, Science and Resources Portfolio for the period 20 April 2023 to 21 September 2023.

The following entities did not approve any grants during the period:

- Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation; and
- IP Australia.

The listing of grants approved under other functions in the Industry, Science and Resources Portfolio will be tabled by responsible Ministers.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ed Husic'.

Ed Husic MP

Enc



**THE HON ED HUSIC MP
MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY AND SCIENCE**

MS23-001108

10 OCT 2023

Senator the Hon Sue Lines
President of the Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear President

Sue,

Pursuant to Senate Procedural Order 21, I submit a statement regarding outstanding Questions on Notice (QoN) from the Budget Estimates hearings held between 22 May and 2 June 2023. This information relates to the 66 QoNs pertinent to my responsibilities within the Industry, Science and Resources portfolio.

Responses to 31 QoNs were tabled by the due date of 14 July 2023. Responses to the other 35 QoNs that were not tabled by the due date, but which have been subsequently tabled, were provided to my office on the following dates:

Date QoNs provided	Number of QoNs provided
14 June 2023	1
28 June 2023	2
30 June 2023	1
5 July 2023	10
6 July 2023	2
7 July 2023	2
10 July 2023	1
11 July 2023	10
12 July 2023	1
13 July 2023	3
15 July 2023	2

Yours sincerely

Ed Husic MP



**THE HON ED HUSIC MP
MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY AND SCIENCE**

MS23-001111

16 OCT 2023

Senator the Hon Sue Lines
President of the Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear President

Pursuant to Senate Procedural Order 22, I submit this statement confirming I have not had relevant meetings with former ministers during the reporting period 2 May 2023 to 2 October 2023.

I also confirm no such meetings took place for Senator the Hon Tim Ayres, Assistant Minister for Manufacturing, and similarly for the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation; the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation; and IP Australia.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ed Husic', written over a horizontal line.

Ed Husic MP

CC: Senator the Hon Tim Ayres, Assistant Minister for Manufacturing.



30 June 2023

Senator Jess Walsh
Chair
Senate Economics Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Walsh

On reviewing the Proof Hansard of the testimony given by CSIRO at the Senate Estimates hearing on 1 June 2023, we find that some of the information provided to the Committee would benefit from clarification.

The following exchange occurred between Senator Shoebridge and myself, Dr Peter Mayfield, Executive Director, Environment, Energy and Resources:

Dr Mayfield: He has no involvement in GISERA. The model that we apply—it's critical that the work that gets done there is independent. It is important it is raised independently. We have a range of research advisory committees which are in each jurisdiction—whether it's Queensland, Northern Territory, New South Wales—that are made up of different representatives. There are no gas industry representatives there, but there is a lot of community, and they have the balance of decision-making power. They determine the work that gets done. CSIRO delivers that work and uses its normal peer-review processes to ensure the integrity of that work. That's how we're undertaking that work. The companies, while they provide some funding, have no influence or say over what work gets done or how it's delivered.

I was referring to the fact that there are no industry representatives on the Gas Industry Social and Environmental Research Alliance (GISERA) Research Advisory Committees (RACs) in NSW.

I would like to clarify the statement made regarding industry representation on the GISERA RACs. There is no majority representation by industry on those committees. Three of the five current RACs do not have industry representation. Two of the five current RACs have minority industry representation (Northern Territory RAC 14 % and Queensland RAC 25 %).

I apologise for any inconvenience caused and ask that you alert other members of the Committee to this clarification.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P Mayfield", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr Peter Mayfield

Executive Director, Environment, Energy and Resources
CSIRO

CSIRO
Australia's National Science Agency



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

Senator Jess Walsh
Chair
Senate Economics Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Walsh

On reviewing the Proof Hansard of the testimony given by the department at the Senate Estimates hearing on 1 June 2023, we find that some of the information provided to the Committee would benefit from clarification and correction.

The following exchange occurred between Senator Shoebridge and Mr Sam Usher, Chief Executive Officer, Australian Radioactive Waste Agency (ARWA):

Senator SHOEBRIDGE: Mr Usher, did anybody from your agency meet with Dr Mokhtar?

Mr Usher: No.

Since the hearing Mr Usher has been advised that an ARWA representative did meet Dr Najat Mokhtar, Deputy Director General, International Atomic Energy Agency at a round table meeting on 24 May 2023.

Mr Usher apologises for any inconvenience caused and asks that you alert other members of the Committee to this correction.

Please can you also ask the Committee to note that the response to Committee Question Number BI-70 provides further details regarding this matter.

Yours sincerely

Jodie Lindsay
Chief Operating Officer
Australian Radioactive Waste Agency

5 July 2023



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

Senator Jess Walsh
Chair
Senate Economics Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Walsh

On reviewing the Proof Hansard of the testimony given by the department at the Senate Estimates hearing on 1 June 2023, we find that some of the information provided to the Committee would benefit from clarification and correction.

The following exchange occurred between Senator David Pocock and Ms Megan Quinn, Secretary of the Department of Industry, Science and Resources:

Senator DAVID POCOCK: Who does the Chief Scientist report to?

Ms Quinn: She's appointed by the government, so she has a strong relationship with the minister for science. But she is appointed by the Governor-General, so, in that sense, she reports to the cabinet and the whole of government, and she had a lot of connections across. On particular projects and particular tasks, she may be tasked by particular ministers or outside parties.

Australia's Chief Scientist is appointed by the Prime Minister, or at his discretion, the Cabinet, and reports to the Minister for Science.

I apologise for any inconvenience caused and ask that you alert other members of the Committee to this correction.

Yours sincerely

Hayley Arbaut-Zaalen
A/g Head of Science Division

3 July 2023

MMI COLLABORATION

- Final outcomes of MMI Collaboration stream

Key Points

- The MMI Manufacturing Collaboration Stream provides funding for a small number of large transformational projects that are expected to either directly feature collaboration or create and facilitate a collaborative ecosystem.
- Nine agreements for projects worth \$385.8 million in grant funding were executed between February and June 2023 and all have commenced. The projects are due for completion in the last half of 2025. More than \$61 million has been paid to date.
- Eight projects worth \$442 million did not proceed because significant changes proposed by the project proponents during negotiations either did not meet program objectives or did not represent value for money for the Commonwealth.
 - This included significant changes in project scope, delivery timeframes, project partners and/or corporate structures.
 - Note that information related to specific project proposals and negotiations are commercial in confidence and cannot be discussed.

Background

- The intended outcomes of the MMI Collaboration Stream are:
 - Increased competitiveness in the National Manufacturing Priorities
 - Increased manufacturing exports, growth and jobs
 - Increased sharing of knowledge, resources and infrastructure between local manufacturers and research organisations
 - Increased introduction and application of new technology, products and processes.
- Timeline of events
 - Applications opened 11 August 2021 and closed 9 September 2021.
 - Grants confirmed as proceeding 26 August 2022.
 - Grants negotiated August 2022 to June 2023.

Contact Officer:

Name: s47F(1)
 Division: Grants Delivery & Business Services
 Telephone: s47E(d)
 Last updated: 5/10/2023 11:56:00 AM

- Timeframes were impacted by the May 2022 election and subsequent Spending Audit.

Projects Proceeding:

Applicant	Project	Grant Amount (\$M)	Paid as at 31 August
SAAB Australia	Sovereign Combat System Collaboration Centre	\$22,627,490	\$11,313,745
Gladstone Fortescue Future Industries Pty Ltd	Electrolyser manufacturing facility	\$44,946,000	\$8,989,200
Australian Genomic Cancer Medicine Centre	PrOSPeCT, hub for cancer drug development	\$61,182,000	\$12,236,400
Gilmour Space Technologies	Australian Space Manufacturing Network	\$51,460,547	\$5,146,054
Alpha HPA Limited	High purity alumina production facility -	\$45,000,000	\$2,250,000
Arafura Resources Limited	The Nolan's Project Rare Earth Separation Plant	\$29,953,973	\$5,990,795
Turbine Sunshine Coast	Purpose-built beverage manufacturing ecosystem	\$33,400,000	\$3,340,000
Australian Vanadium Ltd –	Australian vanadium battery industry -	\$49,000,000	\$9,800,000
Masdar Tribe Australia -. Maryvale EFW Project Co Pty Ltd	Waste to energy facility to divert non-recyclable waste from landfill and reuse	\$48,200,000	\$2,410,000
TOTAL		\$385,770,010.00	\$61,476,194.00

Projects not proceeding:

Applicant	Project	Grant Amount (\$M)
Boeing Defence Australia	Advanced Defence Aerospace Manufacturing Network	34.0
Australian Plant Proteins	Manufacturing Australia's Plant-Based Food Value Chain	113.1
Global Medical Solutions Australia	Australian Precision Medicine Enterprise	23.0
Zoetis Australia Research and Manufacturing	Australian Animal Health Manufacturing and Innovation Hub	53.3
Pure Battery Technologies	Western Australia pCAM Hub	119.6
Fleet Space Technologies	Australian Space Manufacturing Hub	20.0
Electro Optic Systems	Australian Satellite Manufacturing Hub	23.6
BlueScope Steel	Port Kembla Advanced Steel Manufacturing Precinct	55.4
TOTAL		442.0

Some ongoing media coverage in relation to MMI Manufacturing Collaboration Stream Grants has occurred since 1 July 2023. Given the commercial negotiations regarding grants, public comment has not been made about the reasons for grants not proceeding. Grant applicants are aware of the outcome for their negotiation.

NATIONAL CONSTRUCTION CODE DELAYS

Headline Statement

- States and Territories are each responsible for decisions around the extent and timing of adopting new provisions in the National Construction Code (NCC).
- We note recent jurisdiction decisions to phase-in their implementation.
- We continue to work with all jurisdictions to get the best possible improvements to Australian homes and as quickly as we reasonably can.

Key Points

- The Commonwealth, through the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB), support the development of a National Construction Code (NCC) to enable standardisation and consistency of building standards across the country.
- The Commonwealth and ABCB work in close partnership with the states and territories – but the ultimate decision around adopting new provisions is made individually by each jurisdiction.
- While some commercial tools are still going through final assessment, there are fully approved compliance tools available, and these have been available for several months now.

Policy Commitments

- The Trajectory for Low Energy Buildings is a national commitment, by all governments, to improve the long term energy efficiency of our new buildings.

[IF PRESSED on delays in ACT, QLD or NatHERS tool availability]

- The NatHERS Benchmark tool, AccuRate, is available and has been fully available for use since May 2023.
- The tools still being assessed for final accreditation are commercially developed. We cannot control how quickly these tools are developed and ready for use.
- The tool we can control, the benchmark tool AccuRate, is ready and has been ready since May. The ABCB's own step by step provisions, also known as the "elemental provisions" have also been available for more than a year.

Contact Officer:

Name: Gary Rake
Division: Australian Building Codes Board
Telephone: s47E(d)
Last updated: 3/10/2023 12:01:00 PM

Background

- **Key sensitivity:** In September 2023, the ACT and QLD both deferred commencement of new energy efficiency rules until early 2024 – citing delays in readiness of the preferred NatHERS commercial tools as a key reason for the delay.
- NSW have pressed on with implementation from 1 October – using a compliance tool (BASIX) solely developed for use in NSW.
- The 2022 update of the National Construction Code includes improvements to residential energy efficiency – with new houses and apartments targeting a 7-star energy rating for thermal performance along with a whole of home energy use budget to promote energy efficient key appliances like hot water and home heating and cooling.
- NCC 2022 also includes new provisions requiring improvements in critical accessibility features to make future Australian homes more liveable for people with mobility constraints. These are low cost essential features like having at least one step free entry to the home, a toilet on the entry level and toilet and bathroom walls that reinforced to make the future installation of handrails cheaper and easier.
- In response to advocacy from peak bodies, raising concern about industry readiness and general economic pressures in the building industry, state and territory governments have deferred the commencement of some of these new provisions.
- One of the key areas of industry concern is the reported delay in availability of commercial NatHERS tools that support compliance with the new energy efficiency rules. NatHERS is used in all states and territories except NSW.
- NatHERS is a sophisticated energy-efficiency design and assessment tool. It allows a detailed and bespoke assessment to be made of each new home – and helps designers find the best ways to improve the energy performance of a new home at the design stage.
- While it is true that some commercial tools are still under final development and assessment – the core compliance tools are available and have been for several months.
- The NatHERS benchmark tool, AccuRate, has been available in full regulatory mode since May 2023.
- The ABCB’s “elemental provisions”, effectively the simplest step-by-step form of compliance, have been available on the ABCB website for more than a year now.
- While we encourage innovation and the development of commercial tools to support compliance – it is essential that we continue progress to improving the energy efficiency of new Australian buildings.

AUSTRALIAN SPACE AGENCY

Headline Statement

- The Australian Space Agency works across government, industry and academia to advance Australia's position in the global space economy.

Key Points

National Space Mission for Earth Observation (NSMEO)

- The Government terminated the NSMEO, which contributed to putting downward pressure on inflation and interest rates during a period of tough economic circumstances.
- The issue was managed in a measured fashion within Australia's broader Alliance relationship.
- The United States was briefed on the decision before it was announced and appreciated the advance notice.
- We continue to cooperate with the United States on a range of space programs, including to the benefit of Australian industry.

Support for the Australian space sector

- The Department delivers the following initiatives to support the space sector:
 - Moon to Mars Initiative – Trailblazer Program
 - Moon to Mars Initiative – Supply Chain Program
 - Moon to Mars Initiative – Demonstrator Program
 - International Space Investment Initiative – India Projects Stream
 - National Student Space Challenge
- The space industry can also access government support through the \$15 billion National Reconstruction Fund (NRF), which includes space as an enabling capability, and the \$392 million Industry Growth Program.

Technology Safeguards Agreement (TSA)

- Text 'agreement in-principle' was announced by leaders on 20 May 2023.
- A TSA protects US technology and is a US requirement for the launch of US rockets and payloads in a country outside of the US.

Contact Officer:

Name: s47F(1), Director, Divisional Coordination
 Division: Australian Space Agency
 Telephone: s47E(d)
 Last updated: 24/10/2023 1:49:00 PM

- Concluding a TSA with the US strengthens Australia’s long-standing partnership on space and will open new doors for high-skilled tech jobs and supply chains to support US space launch and return on Australian soil.
- The treaty is still subject to domestic treaty-making process prior to coming into effect. This includes signing the treaty followed by consideration by the Joint Standing Committee on Treaties (JSCOT).
- The TSA will create opportunities for the Australian space sector to meet the growing US demand for launch activities outside of the US. Australian companies will benefit from increased investment in launch infrastructure and a more active and growing domestic launch market.
- The TSA will not impact the space sector’s ability to benefit from the AUKUS tech transfer reforms. Any agreement reached by Australia and the US under AUKUS to remove the need for US export control licences for the transfer of US technology to Australia (such as International Traffic in Arms Regulation) will sit over the top of the TSA.
 - Questions on tech transfer reform should be directed to the Department of Defence.

Space Sustainability and space debris

- The Department, through the Australian Space Agency, promotes a ‘responsible’ space sector for current and future uses of space through governance, education, technology and regulation, underpinned by the *Space (Launches and Returns) Act 2018*.
- Environmental impacts are a consideration when assessing applications under the *Space (Launches and Returns) Act 2018*.
- The Agency is exploring a range of initiatives to support space sustainability, including the management of space debris, lifecycle of a space mission, reducing the impact of space activities on the environment and improving community engagement, in particular with First Nations Australians.

Background

A 9 September 2023 article in *The Australian* drew on documents released by the department under FOI to claim that ‘Australian Embassy officials were instructed to keep the White House in the dark’ regarding the decision to terminate the NSMEO program. On the same day, Shadow Ministers Ley (Industry) and Fletcher (Science) issued a press release claiming the Government had demonstrated ‘disrespectful and dysfunctional management of the US relationship’. Media commentary has also focused on the lack of communication regarding the future of the NSMEO program during a March 2023 visit to Australia by NASA Administrator Bill Nelson and colleagues.

INDUSTRY GROWTH PROGRAM

Headline Statement

- The Government is preparing for launch of the Industry Growth Program, to support innovative Australian startups and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to commercialise their ideas and grow their operations.

Key Points

- The Industry Growth Program will provide business advice services for innovative SMEs and startups, and matched grant funding between \$50,000 and \$5 million.
- Supporting projects under National Reconstruction Fund priority areas, the Industry Growth Program will help expand the pipeline of businesses working to transform and diversify Australia's economy.
- The program takes an industry-led approach, leveraging sectoral expertise to support business growth by providing targeted impartial advice and matched grant funding.
- The program will consist of two components:
 - the delivery of advisory services by a national network of expert business growth and commercialisation advisers, and specialised sectoral advice to be provided by contracted industry organisations.
 - the delivery of matched grant funding between \$50,000 and \$5 million to eligible startups and SMEs.
- The program is expected to launch later this year.
- Funding for the program is \$392.4 million over four years from 2023-24, and \$68.2 million ongoing. This is a combination of administered and departmental funds.

Contact Officer:

Name: Sandra Roussel
Division: Commercialisation
Telephone: s47E(d)
Last updated: 20/10/2023 12:56:00 PM

Policy Commitments

- **Program consultation:** The department conducted a public and targeted consultation process with stakeholders in the startup and innovation ecosystem. The department's consultation hub accepted submissions from 28 June 2023 until 30 July 2023. A total of 218 submissions were received through the online consultation hub or directly via email. In addition, the department spoke to and received feedback from stakeholders between June 2023 and August 2023. The feedback is informing the detailed design of the Industry Growth Program.
- **Executive Director:** David Chuter has been appointed as Executive Director for the Industry Growth Program. This is a new Senior Executive Service (SES) position in the department. David commenced on 16 October 2023.
 - Mr Chuter brings a wealth of knowledge in manufacturing, transport, medtech, renewables, low emission technologies, mining and resources and defence. He has worked extensively across the public and private sectors, both in Australia and internationally, and has deep SME experience.
- **Advisers:** Startups and SMEs will receive access to advice from a national network of business growth and commercialisation advisers.
 - The department released a request for tender on 19 July 2023 which closed on 16 August 2023. The department is in the process of assessing applications.
- **Industry partner organisations:** The program is also expected to offer specialised sectoral expertise and advice through engaging a number of 'industry partner organisations.' Offering combined sources of advice is designed to strengthen support to startups and SMEs, building stronger industry connections and commercially viable growth propositions.
 - Call for industry partner organisations has not yet been released. The roles for industry partner organisations in the program are being developed following consultation.
- **Grant component:** Eligible startups and innovative SMEs with commercialisation and business growth projects can receive matched grants, ranging from \$50,000 to \$5 million.
- **Independent Assessment Committee:** A new committee will be established to undertake a strategic investment role in recommending grant funding for startups and innovative SMEs that meet the program's eligibility and merit-based selection criteria.
 - We are advertising, through the department's careers webpage, for up to seven committee members. Applications close 7 November 2023.

NET ZERO SECTOR PLANS

Headline Statement

- The Australian Government will develop six sectoral decarbonisation plans covering all major components of the economy to feed into our Net Zero 2050 plan and strong 2035 targets. Consistent with its Portfolio responsibilities, DISR is supporting the development of:
 - the Industrial Sector and Built Environment Plans led by Minister Husic
 - the Resources Sector Plan led by Minister King.

Key Points

- The overall Net Zero 2050 plan is led by Minister Bowen and the Department of Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Water.
 - The six sectors are: electricity and energy; transport; industry; agriculture and land; resources; and the built environment.
 - The Climate Change Authority will also provide advice to the government on the technology pathways for those six sectors.
- The Industrial Sector Plan will identify how to support businesses to reduce emissions in the transition to net zero while ensuring Australia's continued industrial growth, economic value, and competitiveness by expanding our manufacturing capabilities. This will also include the waste sector, which is the responsibility of Minister Plibersek.
 - The development of an Industrial Sector Plan will consider the role of existing government measures, such as the Safeguard Mechanism, the National Reconstruction Fund (NRF), including the \$3 billion allocated to invest in renewables and low emission technologies, and the Powering the Regions Fund.
- The Built Environment Plan will outline how the operations of our current building stock and future buildings can support lower emissions.

Contact Officer:

Name: Camille de Burgh
Division: Strategic Policy Division
Telephone: s47E(d)
Last updated: 12/10/2023 9:55:00 AM

- The plan will consider existing measures targeting emissions reductions such as the Trajectory for Low Energy Buildings and National Australian Built Environment Rating System, and the Nationwide House Energy Rating System. It will also take into account work to date on the National Construction Code.
- The Resources Sector Plan will outline potential pathways the sector can follow as it transitions from today to net zero by 2050. The pathways will draw on internal modelling and analytical capability and engagement with industry.
 - It will take account of existing policies including the Safeguard Mechanism, Powering the Regions and the Critical Minerals Facility and identify trends in sector innovation to support decarbonisation pathways.
- The Government is working closely with State and Territory governments, industry and other key stakeholder groups, to ensure the plans consider a comprehensive range of perspectives and has broad buy-in.
 - Targeted stakeholder engagement will occur in Q4 2023, with further consultation expected in early 2024.

Policy Commitments

- In 2022, the Government legislated Australia's greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets, to reach net zero by 2050 and 43 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030.
- Building on that momentum, the Government has committed to developing a net zero plan which will articulate how Australia will transition to a net zero economy, consistent with our international and domestic commitments.
 - The Annual Climate Statement to Parliament in 2022 committed the Government to articulate the 2050 net zero plan.
 - As part of the process for developing the net zero plan, the Government will determine Australia's next medium-term target for reducing emissions by 2035. The Paris Agreement requires all parties, including Australia, to submit their next Nationally Determined Contributions - including a 2035 emission reduction target - in 2025.

NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION FUND ESTABLISHMENT

Headline Statement

- The Government has delivered on its commitment to establish the \$15 billion National Reconstruction Fund, with the *National Reconstruction Fund Corporation Act 2023* (the Act) commencing on 18 September 2023.

Key Points

- The NRF Board met for its inaugural meeting on 18 September 2023, marking the commencement of the Act and the independent NRF Corporation (NRFC).
- The independent NRF Board will make decisions to provide loans, guarantees or equity to Australian based investments in seven priority areas of the economy.
- The NRF will operate in a commercial manner targeting a positive rate of return.
- The NRF will enhance Australia's resilience by strengthening manufacturing capabilities, improve Australia's ability to capture value adding opportunities, create secure jobs and support the commercialisation of Australian ideas.

Policy Commitments

- The 2023-24 Budget funded the NRFC to diversify and transform Australia's industry, create secure, well-paying jobs, and boost sovereign capability.
- The NRFC's independent Board will make investment decisions in accordance with the Government's priorities as set out in the NRFC's legislative framework.

Background

- Following commencement of the Act, **the Board is now responsible for the NRFC.**
- The Board will work toward the NRFC making investments as quickly as feasible. Key milestones in the coming months include:
 - Government finalising the Investment Mandate (IM), following Board consultation.
 - the Board developing its own policies and procedures around evaluating potential investments, consistent with the IM and s75 of the Act.
- The **IM will be a non-disallowable legislative instrument** issued jointly by the Minister for Industry and Science and the Minister for Finance.

Contact Officer:

Name: Jasminder Higgins
Division: Sovereign Capabilities and Supply Chains
Telephone: s47E(d)
Last updated: 24/10/2023 7:50:00 AM

- The IM will give direction on the performance of the Board’s investment functions and powers. It is expected to cover matters such as: risk and return; limits on types of financial instruments that may be used and limits on concessions.
- The IM has been informed by consultation across government, other specialist investment vehicles, industry, and input from stakeholder consultations.
- The **2023-24 Budget** provided \$5 billion for investment on commencement of the *National Reconstruction Fund Corporation Act 2023* (the Act). A further \$10 billion is to be credited to the NRFC by 2 July 2029. The first \$5 billion has been deposited into the special account.
- The budget also included \$61.4 million over four years from 2023–24 (and \$1.2 million per year ongoing) to establish the NRFC. This consists of:
 - \$53.2 million in 2023-24 for the establishment and operational costs of the NRFC. This funding will enable the NRFC to recruit staff, generate an investment pipeline and invest quickly while it works towards earning a positive rate of return. Some funding for the NRFC in 2024-25 and 2025-26 is not for publication (nfp) due to commercial sensitivities.
 - \$8.2 million over four years from 2023-24 (and \$1.2 million per year ongoing) for DISR to assist and support the establishment and oversight of the NRFC.
- **NRFC Board members are statutory appointments** made by the Minister for Finance and the Minister for Industry and Science. The inaugural NRF Board was announced on 9 August 2023, comprising a Chair and 7 members. An additional 9th Board member was announced on 20 October 2023.
 - The Government conducted a rigorous process to find the best candidates, considering skills and experience against the requirements of the Act.
 - The Board comprises: Mr Martijn Wilder AM (Chair); Mr Ahmed Fahour AO; Dr Katharine Giles; The Hon Kelly O’Dwyer; Mr Daniel Petre AO; Ms Kathryn Presser AM; Ms Karen Smith-Pomeroy; Mr Glenn Thompson and Mr Daniel Walton.
- The Act received Royal Assent on 11 April 2023 and commenced on 18 September 2023. The Priority Areas Declaration (a disallowable instrument) was tabled in both houses of Parliament on 13 June 2023, and the Investment Mandate (non-disallowable) will be registered following finalisation and a statutory consultation period with the Board.
- The seven priority areas for investment are: Renewables and low emissions technologies; Medical science; Transport; Value add in agriculture, forestry, and fisheries sectors; Value add in resources; Defence capability; Enabling capabilities. In addition the Government is working with industry to develop co-investment plans that identify high level investment opportunities and broader reforms to support growth across these priority areas.
- The Government has earmarked \$8 billion for the following areas: up to \$3 billion for renewables and low emissions technologies; \$1.5 billion for medical manufacturing; \$1 billion for value adding in resources; \$1 billion for critical technologies; \$1 billion for advanced manufacturing; and \$500 million for value adding in agriculture, forestry, fisheries, food, and fibre.
- The Minister for Industry and Science attended the inaugural Board meeting on 18 September 2023 to welcome members and provide some introductory remarks before departing.

AUSTRALIAN MADE BATTERY PLAN

Headline Statement

- Global demand for batteries is expected to increase 18-fold by the end of the decade.¹ The Government is delivering the Australian Made Battery Plan to ensure Australia can capture economic opportunities from this demand and diversify globally concentrated supply chains.

Key Points

- Together, the measures under the Australian Made Battery Plan will send a strong message to investors, researchers, industry and overseas partners that the Government recognises the economic and strategic importance of Australian made batteries.
- The National Battery Strategy is under development. The department is engaging industry, academia and states and territory governments to inform the Strategy's development.
 - A public issues paper was open for consultation between 3 February to 17 March 2023 to shape the Strategy's recommendations, with 132 submissions received.
 - A Ministerial Roundtable was held on 14 March 2023.

Policy Commitments

- Under the Australian Made Battery Plan, the Government has committed to:
 - Publish the National Battery Strategy, to guide governments and industry towards a shared vision of a diverse and competitive battery manufacturing industry.
 - Establish the Australian Made Battery Precinct, committing to invest up to \$100 million in equity in collaboration with the Queensland Government.
 - Implement the \$14.8 million Powering Australia Industry Growth Centre to support businesses to locally manufacture renewable technologies and commercialise local ideas.

¹ FBICRC, Charging Ahead 2023

Contact Officer:

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Division: Sovereign Capability and Supply Chains

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Last updated: 24/10/2023 3:54:00 PM

Background

National Battery Strategy (The Strategy)

- The Strategy will draw on Australia's strengths, matched to our mineral availability, manufacturing capacity and local and global demand for products.
- The Strategy will signal to international partners that Australia is open for investment and ready to play a role in diversifying global supply chains.

Australian Made Battery Precinct

- The Precinct will help create national manufacturing scale, drawing on our globally significant resources of lithium, vanadium, cobalt and graphite required for batteries. Creating national manufacturing scale will support Australia meet its future energy needs and integrate into global battery supply chains.
- Batteries will be central to the transformation of the energy and transport sectors. Batteries can deliver firming capacity to support an increasing share of renewable energy generation. Firming capacity is needed for the National Electricity Market to increase its use of renewables to 82 per cent by 2030 under the Powering Australia plan.

Powering Australia Industry Growth Centre (PAIGC)

- The PAIGC will grow Australia's renewables technologies industry and establish Australia as a leader in renewables technologies.
- The PAIGC will offer three services:
 1. Helping businesses to locally manufacture renewable energy technologies and commercialise local ideas.
 2. Encouraging Connections between critical minerals producers and renewables manufacturers.
 3. Hiring a First Nations Advisor to build First Nations business management capabilities.
- An expression of interest round to deliver the PAIGC was open for submissions between 22 May to 19 June 2023 and received 33 applications.
- Eligible applicants were then invited to participate in a second stage, from 2 to 29 August 2023. Applications were reviewed by an Independent Assessment Committee (Committee) on 19 of October.
- The program delegate has accepted the Committee's recommendation and will award one grant of \$ 14 million. The outcome of this process will be announced by Government in due course. (As at 24 October 2023)

Australia-United States Collaboration on Batteries

- Under the Australia-United States Climate, Critical Minerals and Clean Energy Transformation Compact, both countries have committed to collaborate and drive the development of emerging battery technologies. These efforts will advance battery interoperability, international standards, regulations and battery tracing and recyclability.

MPFA

Headline Statement

- To meet growing demand from industry, the Major Projects Facilitation Agency (MPFA) is constantly improving to provide better and more agile services.

Key Points

- In September 2023, we introduced changes to the way we manage applications. This should shorten the time it takes to undertake assessments.
- Once an application has been formally submitted by a proponent, our commitment is to process it within 50 business days, including:
 - initial MPFA assessment (20 business days)
 - engage with regulators for feedback (20 business days).
 - prepare and provide a brief to the Minister for Industry and Science, who is the decision maker, to consider (10 business days).
- We are improving our service standards, data management and processes, and are building capacity. As we continue this, we anticipate these timeframes will further improve.
- The MPFA works closely with applicants at the pre-submission or draft stage.
- There have been occasions in the recent past where applications have taken longer than 50 business days to process for decision.
- This is largely due to:
 - significant periods of time where the agency awaited information from an applicant; and
 - draft applications that were never finalised by the applicant and remained open.

Contact Officer:

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Last updated: 6/10/2023 9:58:00 AM

Background

- At the previous Senate Estimates, questions were asked in relation to major project status processing times, specifically: *When first contact was made by a proponent; How long the project was under assessment; If the project was recommended to the Minister and when the Minister was briefed on the project; and How many jobs and capital expenditure each project would create.*
- The information provided in the QoN indicated that the MPFA has applications on hand where the duration of assessment exceeds one year (four were specified as over one year, with the longest at 630 days).
- Changes to streamline processes were introduced in September 2023. Whilst there are challenges with historic records, new applications are being more accurately tracked and managed.

ANAO AUDIT OF TRADE MEASUREMENT

Headline Statement

- The department welcomes the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) audit report on national trade measurement compliance activities, and commits to a range of improvements including those already underway prior to the audit.

Key Points

- Continuous improvement in how the National Measurement Institute (NMI) undertakes compliance activity is important given rapid technological change. NMI is updating Australia's measurement legislation to be principles-based and flexible, giving faster market access to new technologies, but maintaining consumer and business protections.
- The costs of administering Australia's trade measurement laws are increasing, and NMI must adapt to meet rising demand from industry and government efficiently and effectively.
- Work was already under way to strengthen appointment processes and improve record keeping. We will refine the assessment of risk to better target compliance activities; develop an improved accountability framework to ensure these activities are timely and fully effective; and report performance more clearly.
- The audit coincided with the COVID-19 pandemic. The department ensured that its activities protected the health and safety of trade measurement inspectors and minimised the risk of inspectors being vectors in the community.
- The NMI continues to deliver trade measurement compliance activities alongside compliance monitoring undertaken for other regulators. This approach is cost-effective and minimises regulatory burden on regulated businesses.
- We place the health and safety of our officers at the highest importance, and our commitment to meeting our WHS obligations is ongoing across all our activities.

Policy Commitments

- The ANAO audit has not resulted in policy commitments.

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Last updated: 4/10/2023 8:13:00 AM

Background

- The National Measurement Institute (NMI) is a division of the department that delivers the national trade measurement regulatory framework, and related compliance activities, under the *National Measurement Act 1960*.
- The objective of the routine ANAO audit was to examine whether compliance with trade measurement law in Australia is being effectively administered by the department through the NMI. ANAO commenced the audit in July 2022. The department fostered a good working relationship with the ANAO throughout the audit.
- The ANAO audit report and the department's response to its findings was simultaneously tabled in parliament and published on the ANAO website on 5 September 2023. Several online media outlets covered the report. The media noted the NMI's focus on tobacco plain packaging inspection activities in the context of decreased trade measurement inspections.
- The NMI undertakes tobacco plain packaging inspection activities on behalf of the Department of Health and Aged Care and fuel quality sampling activities for the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water under memoranda of understanding (MoU). These MoUs recognise the NMI's unique and national capabilities that provide effective delivery of regulatory services for the Australian Government whilst reducing regulatory burden on regulated operators.
- The NMI had already commenced improvements to processes relating to documentation management and appointment of trade measurement inspectors prior to the audit. The NMI commits to implementing the recommendations to improve its approach.

SCIENCE POLICY

Headline Statement

- The Government is developing a long-term vision for science in Australia, and is seeking to build a more diverse Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics workforce to deliver that vision and meet the goal of 1.2 million technology related jobs by 2030.

Key Points

- The Government recognises that science underpins a dynamic and productive economy and contributes to our social and environmental wellbeing.
- A strong science system is critical for ensuring we have a highly skilled workforce, and for creating job opportunities in the industries of the future.
- The Government wants to see Australians from all walks of life engaged in science – to draw on the full diversity of our talent pool to deliver the next scientific breakthroughs.

Policy Commitments

- The Government is revitalising the National Science and Research Priorities released in 2015, and the National Science Statement released in 2017, to set a long-term vision for science in Australia.
 - Public consultation closed last month, and the priorities and statement are being finalised.
- The Government is also supporting an independent Diversity in STEM Review, which is establishing what is working, what is not, and where these lessons can be applied to improve overall diversity in STEM, STEM leadership and the STEM-skilled workforce.
 - Public consultation closed last month. The final report is due to the Minister for Industry and Science this month for consideration and government response.
- The Government is continuing to deliver \$107.38 million in programs aimed at removing barriers and increasing engagement and retention of women in STEM.

Contact Officer:

Name: Bridgette Byrne
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Last updated: 5/10/2023 8:07:00 AM

- There are nine programs that target areas right across the STEM pathway, from schooling through to leadership.
- The Government also continues to deliver programs to engage all Australians in science and encourage community-wide participation in STEM.
 - Through the Inspiring Australia – Science Engagement Program (IA-SEP), the Government is providing \$7.2 million per year in grants and prizes that encourage the community to engage with science and participate in STEM activities.
 - In the 2023-24 Budget, the Government committed \$9.1 million to boost scientific capability and promote excellence and diversity in STEM. This includes funding for the National Science and Technology Council, the Prime Minister’s Prizes for Science and Science Meets Parliament initiatives.
- The Government is supporting Australia’s priority science and technology capabilities.
 - In the May 2023-24 Budget, the Government announced over \$264 million to support the growth of Australia’s critical technologies industries and strengthen Australia’s STEM capabilities.
- Australia’s national science organisations such as CSIRO and ANSTO are supporting the Government’s priority to secure and celebrate our world-leading science and technology capabilities as well as helping to address national challenges.
- To support the Government’s science agenda, it has access to advice from a range of experts, including Australia’s Chief Scientist Dr Cathy Foley, The National Science and Technology Council, and Industry Innovation and Science Australia.

2023-24 BUDGET MEASURES - ANSTO

Headline Statement

- The Australian Government has invested in nuclear medicine manufacturing and science to support safe and reliable operation of facilities at the Australian National Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO).

Key Points

- In the 2023-24 Budget, the Government committed long term funding to support nuclear research, technology, and medicine manufacturing activities over 10 years.
 - This funding supports the safe and reliable operation of key ANSTO facilities. It will boost resilience of nuclear medicine manufacturing and supplies for Australians.
- Nuclear medicine is a vital component of our modern healthcare system. Each week approximately 12,000 Australians receive nuclear medicine procedures for diagnosis and treatment, including for cancers and heart disease.
- Through these commitments government is investing in our sovereign scientific capabilities and the future health and wellbeing of Australians.

Policy Commitments

- The 2023-24 Budget commitments includes:
 - \$44.5 million over three years from 2023-24 to support ANSTO to manage planned maintenance shutdown of the Open Pool Australian Lightwater (OPAL) reactor, and to cover costs to import nuclear medicines that would ordinarily be made using the reactor.
 - \$39.9 million over three years from 2023-24 to formally wind-up ANSTO Nuclear Medicine Pty Ltd by 1 July 2024 and transfer operations, assets, and liabilities to ANSTO.
 - Integration will reduce administrative complexity and simplify ANSTO's nuclear medicine manufacturing arrangements. These actions strengthen our sovereign capability to supply nuclear medicines.
 - Funding over 10 years from 2023-24 for ANSTO to commence construction of a new nuclear medicine manufacturing building, and to maintain the current ageing facility.
 - Consistent with usual practice, this funding is not for publication due to commercial sensitivities.

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Last updated: 5/10/2023 9:59:00 AM

- Funding over two years from 2023-24 to develop a business case for a new facility to support Australia’s sovereign nuclear security science capability.
 - Through ANSTO, Australia contributes to national, regional, and international efforts that enhance nuclear security. s33(a)
 - The details of this funding are not for publication due to commercial sensitivities.
- ANSTO will also receive \$16.3 million over two years from 2023-24 to support radiological baselining and monitoring and provide advice on the safe implementation of nuclear technology, as part of the Department of Defence-led Nuclear-Powered Submarine (NPS) Program.
 - This funding enables ANSTO to continue supporting the NPS program by providing subject matter expertise in nuclear engineering, science, stewardship safety and security.

Background

- Over 70-years ANSTO has made scientific contributions through application of nuclear science and techniques, including by supplying nuclear medicines to millions of Australians.
 - Nuclear medicines are used to diagnose and treat a range of illnesses, some of them life-threatening. These include cancers, heart conditions, and thyroid disorders. On average, every Australian will have at least one such procedure in their lifetime.
 - ANSTO is the only organisation capable of producing reactor-based nuclear medicines in Australia.
- OPAL is currently Australia’s only nuclear reactor. It is one of the most modern and hardest working research reactors in the world.
 - OPAL is core to ANSTO’s scientific and research activities. It is essential to producing around 80 per cent of Australia’s nuclear medicines, required as the first step in ANSTO’s nuclear medicine production line.
 - The planned maintenance shutdown of OPAL will allow preventative and proactive maintenance to maximise its lifespan and ensure it continues to deliver scientific, industry and health benefits for Australians.
 - It is routine for nuclear reactors to be shut down for extended maintenance at pre-determined periods during their operating lifecycles. This provides appropriate and necessary time for more complex, less routine repairs and maintenance works.
- The NPS Taskforce was established by Defence in September 2021 and transitioned to the Australian Submarine Agency from 1 July 2023. ANSTO has supported the NPS Program since inception, consistent with its legislated function to provide advice on nuclear science and technology matters.
 - Questions on the NPS Taskforce should be deferred to the Department of Defence.

TECHNOLOGY AND DIGITAL UPDATE

Headline Statement

- We are growing Australia's critical technologies industries and supporting our digital capability. This will boost our economy and create high-value jobs that will help retain talent in Australia.

Key Points

- The Federal Budget included new measures totalling \$101.2 million between 2022-23 to 2026-27. These include:
 - \$40.2 million for the Critical Technologies Challenge Program
 - \$19.8 million for the Australian Centre for Quantum Growth
 - \$22.6 million to expand the National Artificial Intelligence Centre (NAIC)
 - \$18.6 million for the Responsible AI Adopt Program

Policy Commitments

Artificial Intelligence

- The government is continuing to position Australia as a global leader in developing and adopting trusted, secure and responsible AI.
- On 1 June 2023, the Government released the *Safe and Responsible AI in Australia* discussion paper to guide a conversation that ensures Australia continues to support responsible AI practices to increase community trust and confidence. Refer to SB23-000106.
- Over 500 submissions were received with wide-ranging feedback from industry experts, academia and civil society. The Government is currently considering this feedback.
- With the Digital Transformation Agency, the department is jointly leading a taskforce to examine government use of AI.

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Last updated: 4/10/2023 8:11:00 AM

- The aim is to develop whole-of-government policies, standards and guidance that enable the Australian Public Service to harness the opportunities of AI safely and responsibly.

Quantum Strategy

- Quantum technologies could generate nearly \$6 billion in revenue and over 19,000 jobs in Australia by 2045. Australia is recognised as a global leader.
- Released on 3 May 2023, Australia's first National Quantum Strategy sets out a long-term vision of how we can take advantage of the opportunities presented by quantum technologies.
- The department has started to implement the strategy including consulting with stakeholders on the Australian Centre for Quantum Growth and the Critical Technologies Challenge Program.

Robotics

- Robotics and automation technologies have the potential to provide significant benefits to Australia. Robotics companies were estimated to be worth \$18 billion in annual revenue to our economy in 2021, up from \$12 billion in 2018.
- In August 2022, Minister Husic announced the development of a National Robotics Strategy, and on 13 December 2022 appointed the National Robotics Strategy Advisory Committee to help guide this work.

Critical technologies

- Released on 9 May 2023, the Critical Technologies Statement and List of Critical Technologies in the National Interest outline the Government's commitment to the important role of critical technologies and signals the key enabling technology fields that are important to Australia.

Critical technologies visa screening

- A visa screening framework has been introduced to manage the risk of unwanted critical technology transfer through the migration program under the Migration Regulations 1994. The new regulations create a Public Interest Criterion by which the Minister for Home Affairs can refuse to grant certain visas if there is an unreasonable risk of unwanted transfer of critical technology by the visa applicant.
 - It has no effect until the Minister for Home Affairs defines critical technologies in the legislative instrument, which will be informed by, but is distinct from, the List of Critical Technologies in the National Interest.
- Further questions should be directed to Home Affairs.

SAFE AND RESPONSIBLE AI

Headline Statement

- The Government is continuing to position Australia as a global leader in developing and adopting trusted, secure and responsible AI.

Key Points

Safe and Responsible AI in Australia consultation

- On 1 June 2023, the Government released the *Safe and Responsible AI in Australia* discussion paper to guide a conversation about how Australia can continue to support responsible AI practices and increase community trust and confidence in the technology.
- Consultation closed on 4 August. Over 500 submissions were received and over 500 people attended virtual and in person consultation events, highlighting broad public interest in AI.
- The responses to the consultation process will inform consideration across government on appropriate regulatory and policy responses.

AI and the workforce

- There is a public debate about the impact of AI and other technologies on jobs. While it is true that some tasks may be automated by AI and automation, it is also likely that AI will create new opportunities.
- The Government is responding through a range of initiatives to build the skills the workforce needs to benefit from AI and other emerging technologies. This includes the Government's commitment to reach 1.2 million tech-related jobs by 2030.

International engagement on AI

- Australia is working with partners worldwide to support international efforts to govern AI.

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Last updated: 17/10/2023 12:22:00 PM

Page 1 of 2

- We seek to be a leading voice for diversity and inclusion; to influence the international community so that AI principles and ethics align with our values; and showcase our areas of strength to reinforce Australia as an attractive place to develop responsible AI technologies.
- Australia is a signatory to the OECD AI Ethics principles, and a founding member of the Global Partnership on AI (GPAI).
- Minister Husic will represent Australia at the AI Safety Summit in the UK on 1 November.
- We are engaged in other international AI forums, including the UN High Level Advisory Body, the OECD's Working Party on AI Governance (AIGO) and UNESCO AI activities.

Policy Commitments

AI Industry Support Programs

- The 2023-24 Budget contained \$86.5 million of new and continuing funding for AI initiatives aimed at embedding the technology in the broader economy in a responsible way today, while training the workforce of tomorrow. This includes:
 - \$17 million for the Responsible AI Adopt Program
 - \$21.6 million to extend the National AI Centre (NAIC) to support initiatives like the Responsible AI Network to strengthen AI governance and industry capability. This is on top of its existing funding (\$5.1 million from 2022-23 to 2023-24).
 - Funding of \$42.8 million continues for the Next Generation Artificial Intelligence and Emerging Technologies Graduates programs.

AI use in Government Taskforce

- The department is co-leading, alongside the Digital Transformation Agency, the multi-agency, whole-of-government AI use in Government Taskforce. It was established by the Secretaries Board Future of Work Subcommittee. It commenced operations on 7 August 2023 and will run for six months.
- The taskforce's purpose is to ensure that government is harnessing the opportunities of AI safely and responsibly. It is composed of 18 secondees from 11 agencies. A key piece of work is updating the interim guidance for agencies on the use of publicly available generative AI platforms. It is also supporting the government's response to the Royal Commission into the Robodebt Scheme recommendations 17.1 and 17.2.

DEEP SEA MINING/THE METALS COMPANY AUSTRALIA PTY LTD AND THE RELATED ORDER TO PRODUCE

Headline Statement

- On 8 March 2023, the Senate accepted a motion by Senator Peter Whish-Wilson to produce certain documents relating to the Clarion-Clipperton Zone Environmental Monitoring and Management Plan. The documents were provided on 6 April 2023, and the Order has been complied with.

Key Points

- On 7 July 2022, CSIRO and the Metals Company Australia Pty Ltd (TMC) entered into an agreement to deliver a project: *Integrated Ecosystem Assessment and Ecosystem Based Management Framework for Polymetallic Nodule Collection Activities* (the Agreement).
- Under this Agreement, CSIRO will lead a consortium of academic research institutions to develop an integrated ecosystem assessment and ecosystem-based management framework for polymetallic nodule collection activities (the Framework) and management of deep-sea mining exploration, should the International Seabed Authority (ISA) grant authority for deep-sea mining in the future.
- The Framework will be provided by CSIRO to TMC to enable the company to develop its own environmental impact statement (EIS) and environmental management and monitoring plan (EMMP) for proposed deep-sea polymetallic nodule collection operations in the Clarion-Clipperton Zone of the Pacific Ocean.
- CSIRO is not involved in the approval of deep-sea mining operations. This authority rests with the ISA.
- Should deep-sea mining be approved by the ISA, this research will ensure that impacts to the ocean floor ecosystem are properly measured and monitored.

Background

- CSIRO is a global leader in the development of ecosystem-based management frameworks and ecological risk assessments. It provides independent, technical scientific research to inform policy and decision making.

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Last updated: 9/10/2023 9:09:00 AM

- CSIRO's aim is to improve gaps in knowledge about the seabed and to build best-practice, evidence-based approaches for the monitoring and management of deep-sea ecosystems in international waters.
- CSIRO is working in alignment with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's call for evidence-based risk assessments.
- Under the Agreement, CSIRO has entered into sub-contracts with collaborators The New Zealand National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research (NIWA), Griffith University, University of the Sunshine Coast and Museums Victoria.
- The project budget is \$1.7 million, to be delivered in phases from the first half of 2024. The research will also be published on CSIRO's website.
- CSIRO is not developing the EIS or EMMP. Rather, TMC will develop these documents and may then submit them to the ISA, which is the regulatory authority for seabed mining in the zone.
- National governments and deep-sea mining proponents are looking to the ISA to set the standards for deep-sea mining. The first projects that go before the ISA will be influential in shaping the future of deep-sea mining, including the scientific approaches and requirements.
- Some names and contact details of officers were redacted from the Order for privacy reasons, along with information that was out of scope.

THE CSIRO GAS INDUSTRY SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH ALLIANCE (GISERA)

Headline Statement

- GISERA provides high quality, independent scientific research and information focussed on environmental and socio-economic topics to communities living in gas development regions.

Key Points

- The CSIRO Gas Industry Social and Environmental Research Alliance (GISERA) is a national collaboration between CSIRO; Commonwealth, state and territory governments; and industry.
- CSIRO research delivered through GISERA has strict governance arrangements to ensure the independence and integrity of all its work.
- Most of CSIRO's funding for GISERA comes from government – the Australian Government and the Governments of New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia and the Northern Territory. It is partially funded by industry (such as Australia Pacific LNG, QGC, Santos and Origin Energy).

Background

- In regions where natural gas development is occurring or being proposed it is vital that local communities, business, industry and policy makers are able to make development decisions based on CSIRO's world-leading scientific analysis.
- Approximately two thirds of the total funding for GISERA comes from federal and state governments and CSIRO, with local community members have the deciding say over which research projects are funded.
- Projects provide research into groundwater resources, biodiversity, land management, greenhouse gas emissions, baseline studies, and social and economic analyses.
- Since 2011, CSIRO's GISERA has approved 90 research projects into various aspects of social and environmental impacts of onshore gas development. 62 projects have been completed, 26 are underway, and two have been approved and are yet to commence. All research project results are publicly available on the GISERA website.
- CSIRO's GISERA has received funding of \$58.8 million to date, with government sources representing 42.6 percent, industry 31.1 percent, and CSIRO 26.1 percent. Funding from other sources i.e., universities 0.2 percent.

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CSIRO's response to allegations of greenwashing

- On 18 August 2023 CSIRO Executive Director Environment, Energy and Resources, Dr Peter Mayfield, responded in writing to a submission made by Mr Peter Robertson to the Senate Environment and Communications Inquiry into Greenwashing.
- In the letter Dr Mayfield addressed allegations by Mr Robertson of greenwashing against CSIRO's Gas Industry Social and Environmental Research Alliance and CSIRO Publishing.
- Dr Mayfield stated: "The claims made by Mr Robertson in relation to CSIRO in his submission are not correct."
- "For more than 100 years CSIRO, as Australia's national science agency, has worked to improve the lives of Australian communities and support Australian industry. We operate under the Science and Industry Research Act 1949 and our mandate is one of impartiality, scientific rigour and accountability to the Australian public."

CSIRO's letter is publicly available on the Committee's website.

GISERA health report

- In April 2023 CSIRO released the report *Identification and screening for potential physical hazards to human health from coal seam gas activities at a study site in the Surat Basin in Southern Queensland*. The report is publicly available on the GISERA website.
- A 2,150 km² study site was screened, and existing data related to factors that could lead to potential hazards such as chemicals, air emissions, noise, light and dust were assessed.
- The joint CSIRO and University of Queensland study found that for the majority of factors there was no plausible pathway to impact human health.
- The study determined a further in-depth assessment of a small number of identified potential hazards is required. Two new CSIRO projects are now underway as a result of these findings.
- The study was funded primarily by the Queensland Government (59 per cent), the Commonwealth Government (21 per cent) and CSIRO (18 per cent).

GENCOST (CSIRO)

Headline Statement

- The GenCost report, published by CSIRO, is an annual report informing Australia's future energy generation/system planning.

Key Points

- GenCost is a leading electricity generation cost projection report. It is a collaboration between CSIRO and the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) to update the costs of electricity generation, energy storage and hydrogen production.
- Consultation is a key element of the annual process to ensure the final report accurately reflects the experience and expertise of the energy sector.
 - Each year a consultation draft is publicly released in December for feedback before the final report is completed towards the end of the financial year.
- The report finds that renewables, led by wind and solar, continue to be the cheapest new-build electricity technology in Australia from 2030, despite concerns that inflation, supply chain pressures and global demand for clean energy technologies will continue to put upward pressure on costs.
- The report provides benchmark cost data to enable more sophisticated systems analyses, uses the best available information to provide an objective annual benchmark on cost projections for new build generation, and updates forecasts to take into account technology improvement and supply chain factors.
- Re nuclear: The 2022/23 report attracted increased interest in results on small modular reactors (nuclear SMRs) and the data and modelling used to forecast the cost of new build energy generation post 2030.
 - Modelling results are consistent with the previous year regarding the potential of nuclear Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) for Australia and continue to reflect the lack of actual projects in construction at this time and therefore the actual costs related to those builds.

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Last updated: 9/10/2023 10:33:00 AM

- The Australian electricity industry does not see any prospect of domestic projects this decade given its commercial immaturity and high cost. Future cost reductions are possible but depend on its successful commercial deployment overseas.
- The 2022/23 report is the fifth update following the inaugural report in 2018.

Background

Key findings from the 2022/23 Report:

- Renewables, led by wind and solar continue to be the cheapest new-build electricity technology in Australia from 2030, despite concerns that inflation, supply chain pressures and global demand for clean energy technologies will keep costs high.
- In global scenarios where the speed of the transition is highest, cost pressures will continue until 2030. It is expected there is less risk of cost pressure extending beyond 2030 because manufacturing capability established by then is expected to be sufficient to meet future needs.

Impacts to cost:

- COVID-19: resulted in lingering global supply chain constraints which have impacted the prices of raw materials needed in technology manufacturing and in freight costs.
- Strong global demand: future price uncertainty and strong demand associated with the global energy transition.
- Rapid pace of clean energy technology deployment requires a massive scale up of clean energy technology manufacturing and supply of raw materials and labour to those industries.

Levelised Cost Of Electricity (LCOE) and sunk costs:

- LCOE is a simple metric for non-modellers to understand the relative costs of energy from different generation technologies. The method calculates the cost per MWh that would have to be recovered for a new electricity generation investment to break even if it were to take place in a given year, such as 2030.
- The report provides two sets of data: capital cost data to be used by modellers, and calculations of LCOE data for new build generation capacity. The report does not provide the cumulative cost of all investments up to 2030 because this is addressed in a separate project called the Integrated System Plan of which GenCost is one of many inputs.
- The 2022/23 GenCost Report includes an estimate for future costs related to the additional infrastructure (i.e., storage and transmission) that will be needed to address the variability and wider displacement of renewables.
- The LCOE analysis focuses on calculating this cost as it relates to moving from the expected 50% variable renewable share in 2030 to either 60 per cent, 70 per cent, 80 per cent or 90 per cent.
- GenCost finds that the LCOE of moving to the variable renewable energy (VRE) shares of between 60-90 per cent is lower than the LCOE of any other technology.
- All existing generation, storage and transmission capacity up to 2030 is treated as sunk costs since they are not relevant to new-build costs in that year.
- Caution is needed when interpreting alternative studies that find higher costs for renewable integration. These tend to be based on renewables operating in ways inconsistent with least cost system design which must make use of all available technologies and only deploy renewables where they contribute to lower system costs.

CSIRO BOARD MEMBER OVERPAYMENT (CSIRO)

Headline Statement

- Mr Knox has repaid the additional remuneration he received from CSIRO in error and has resigned from the CSIRO Board effective 14 September.

Key Points

- Mr Knox has resigned from the CSIRO Board effective 14 September 2023, advising the Governor-General in writing that he recognised with the new CEO starting in October that the time is right for him to step aside and allow others to shape the future.
- The “overpayment” relates to additional remuneration paid to Mr David Knox during the period 13 June 2017 to 3 April 2020 when Mr Knox held simultaneous appointments as the Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of Australian Naval Infrastructure and as a part-time member of the CSIRO Board. Mr Knox was appointed to the CSIRO Board on 5 May 2016.
- Under s 7(11) of the *Remuneration Tribunal Act 1973* (Cth) an appointee to a part-time public office is not entitled to receive remuneration for that position if they hold a full-time public office.
- The total of the additional remuneration (excluding superannuation) for this period was \$199,322.95 (being the gross amount of salary inclusive of income tax withheld of \$45,172).
- As at 11 July 2023, Mr Knox had repaid the additional remuneration he received from CSIRO.
- The parties including the relevant superannuation provider(s) are working with the relevant fund to recover the outstanding amount that related to superannuation contributions. This is \$18,936.80.

Contact Officer:

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Last updated: 5/10/2023 2:31:00 PM

Background

- Meghan Quinn, Secretary of the Department of Industry, Science and Resources wrote to CSIRO's Chair, Kathryn Fagg on 5 January 2023 notifying the Chair that the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet had recently completed a review of Government appointments and payments made to those appointees; The review identified additional remuneration had been paid to Mr David Knox, Deputy Chair of CSIRO's Board.
- As the correspondence from the Secretary was sent to an incorrect email address, it was not received by the Chair until 16 February 2023. Upon being made aware of the correspondence, the CSIRO Corporate Secretary commenced due diligence to verify the appointments held by, and amounts paid by CSIRO to, Mr Knox during the relevant period.
- On 6 April 2023, the CSIRO Corporate Secretary provided the dates in relation to Mr Knox's other Government appointment to CSIRO's Human Resources ('People') Function. The amount of remuneration paid to Mr Knox during the relevant period was provided to the CSIRO Corporate Secretary on 12 April 2023.
- On 17 April 2023, the CSIRO Corporate Secretary advised the Chief Operating Officer of the additional remuneration and asked for options. The recommendation was that the additional remuneration should be recovered.
- The Chief Executive was informed of the matter by the Board Chair on 18 April 2023. On 24 April 2023, the Chief Operating Officer recommended to the Chair that Mr Knox be notified of the additional remuneration, and the amount be recovered from him. And further, if the Chair decided to waive all or part of the additional remuneration the Department and Minister be notified of that decision.
- The Chair informed Mr Knox of the additional remuneration on 26 April 2023. Mr Knox advised that he was aware of the general issue relating to remuneration of concurrent full-time and part-time office holders. ^{s47F(1)}
- The Chair then discussed the matter with the Secretary Quinn on 5 May 2023, and they agreed the Department and CSIRO would jointly seek legal advice.
- Subsequently, the Australian Government Solicitor (AGS) was instructed by CSIRO to confirm whether CSIRO could recover the additional remuneration. Consistent with the advice received and CSIRO's own internal procedure, CSIRO implemented recovery steps in respect of the additional remuneration.
- As at 11 July 2023, Mr Knox had repaid the additional remuneration including the relevant taxation component, a total of \$199,322.95.
- The corresponding superannuation contributions of \$18,936.80 made by CSIRO, needs to be recovered directly from the relevant superannuation fund. CSIRO and Mr Knox are working together with the relevant fund to recover the superannuation contributions.
- On 12 July, CSIRO published a statement on CSIRO's website to the effect that Mr Knox had repaid the additional remuneration he received from CSIRO.