

**Hot Issue Brief Index****GENERAL INFORMATION****Hearing Information**

Senate Estimates Program		1
--------------------------	--	---

Witness List		2
--------------	--	---

Committee Members		3
-------------------	--	---

**Portfolio Information**

Organisational Chart		4
----------------------	--	---

Senate Procedural Order - Questions on Notice		5
---	--	---

Hansard Correction Letters from Previous Hearing		6
--	--	---

**CORPORATE**

Appointments	SB25-000009	7
--------------	-------------	---

Budget Overview - Minister King	SB25-000010	8
---------------------------------	-------------	---

**PROGRAM 1.3 – SUPPORTING A STRONG RESOURCES SECTOR**

Resources and Energy Outlook	SB25-000004	9
------------------------------	-------------	---

National Radioactive Waste Management	SB25-000005	10
---------------------------------------	-------------	----

Gas supply	SB25-000007	11
------------	-------------	----

Offshore consultation requirements and regulatory reform	SB25-000008	12
--	-------------	----

**PORTFOLIO AGENCIES****Geoscience Australia**

Australia-United States Partnership in Landsat Next	SB25-000012	13
---	-------------	----



PARLIAMENT  
OF AUSTRALIA

## HEARING PROGRAM

# Additional Budget Estimates 2024–25

## Economics Legislation Committee

Wednesday, 26 February and Thursday, 27 February 2025  
**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)

### Ministers attending

Senator the Hon Katy Gallagher, representing the Treasurer

Senator the Hon Tim Ayres, representing the Treasurer, representing the Minister for Industry and Science, and representing the Minister for Resources



### Contact

economics.sen@aph.gov.au

+61 2 6277 3540

### Secretariat

Dr Sean Turner, Committee Secretary

Mr Flynn Benson, Estimates Officer

### Committee rooms

Committee Room 2R1: (02) 6277 2986

Committee Room 2R2: (02) 6277 2270

### Questions on Notice

Written questions on notice due:

*4 March 2025*

Answers to Questions on Notice due:

*24 March 2025*

# Wednesday, 26 February 2025

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## Treasury Portfolio

<b>9.00am</b> (120 mins)	<p>Department of the Treasury</p> <p>Including Dr Steven Kennedy PSM (until 11am)</p> <p><b>Macroeconomic Group</b></p> <p><b>International and Foreign Investment Group</b></p>
<b>11.00am</b>	<b>Break (10)</b>
<b>11.10am</b> (60 mins)	<p>Department of the Treasury</p> <p><b>Macroeconomic Group (Cont.)</b></p> <p><b>International and Foreign Investment Group (Cont.)</b></p>
<b>12.10pm</b> (120 mins)	<p>Department of the Treasury</p> <p><b>Small Business, Housing, Corporate and Law Group</b></p>
<b>2.10pm</b>	<b>Lunch (45)</b>
<b>2.55pm</b> (35mins)	<p>Department of the Treasury</p> <p><b>Fiscal Group</b></p>
<b>3.30pm</b> (60mins)	<p>Department of the Treasury</p> <p><b>Markets Group</b></p>
<b>4.30pm</b> (45 mins)	<b>Australian Competition and Consumer Commission</b>
<b>5.15pm</b>	<b>Break (10)</b>
<b>5.25pm</b> (45 mins)	<b>Australian Prudential Regulation Authority</b>
<b>6.10pm</b>	<b>Dinner (45)</b>
<b>6.55pm</b> (80 mins)	<p>Department of the Treasury</p> <p><b>Revenue Group</b></p> <p><b>Australian Taxation Office</b></p> <p><b>Tax Practitioners Board</b></p> <p><b>Australian Charities and Not-for-Profit Commission</b></p>

<b>8.15pm</b>	<b>Break (10)</b>
<b>8.25pm</b> (60 mins)	Housing Australia
<b>9.25pm</b> (20 mins)	Australian Bureau of Statistics
<b>9.45pm</b> (15 mins)	Australian Small Business and Family Enterprise Ombudsman
<b>10.00pm</b>	<i>Adjournment</i>

Thursday, 27 February 2025

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### Treasury Portfolio

<b>9.00am</b> (90 mins)	Reserve Bank of Australia
<b>10.30am</b>	<b>Break (10)</b>
<b>10.40am</b> (45 mins)	Australian Securities and Investments Commission
<b>11.25am</b> (15 mins)	Productivity Commission

## Industry, Science and Resources Portfolio

<b>11.40am</b> (30 mins)	<p>Department of Industry, Science and Resources Corporate, Enabling and Business Services</p>
<b>12.10pm</b>	<b>Lunch (45)</b>
<b>12.55pm</b> (105 mins)	<p>Department of Industry, Science and Resources</p> <p><b>Outcome 1:</b> Support economic growth, productivity and job creation for all Australians by investing in science and technology, growing innovative and competitive businesses, industries and regions, and supporting resources sector.</p> <p><b>Program 1.1: Growing innovative and competitive businesses, industries and regions</b> Manufacturing and National Reconstruction Fund Anti-Dumping Commission Australian Building Codes Board</p>
<b>2.40pm</b> (30 mins)	<b>National Reconstruction Fund Corporation</b>
<b>3.10pm</b>	<b>Break (10)</b>
<b>3.20pm</b> (75 mins)	<p>Department of Industry, Science and Resources</p> <p><b>Outcome 1:</b> (Continued) <b>Program 1.2: Investing in science, technology and commercialisation</b></p> <p>The Chief Scientist Office of Industry Innovation and Science Australia</p>
<b>4.35pm</b> (75 mins)	<p>Department of Industry, Science and Resources</p> <p><b>Outcome 1:</b> (Continued) <b>Program 1.3: Supporting a strong resources sector</b> <u>Topics and entities</u> Minerals and Resources Oil and Gas</p>
<b>5.50pm</b>	<b>Dinner (45)</b>

<p><b>6.35pm</b> (75 mins)</p>	<p><b>Department of Industry, Science and Resources</b></p> <p><b>Outcome 1:</b> (Continued)</p> <p><b>Program 1.3: (Cont.)</b></p> <p><u>Topics and entities</u></p> <p>Radioactive Waste Management</p> <p>Maralinga Maintenance and Site Remediation</p> <p>National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator</p> <p>Australian Radioactive Waste Agency</p> <p><b>Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation</b></p>
<p><b>7.50pm</b> (45 mins)</p>	<p><b>Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation</b></p>
<p><b>8.35pm</b></p>	<p><b>Break (10)</b></p>
<p><b>8.45pm</b> (45 mins)</p>	<p><b>National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority</b></p>
<p><b>9.30pm</b> (30 mins)</p>	<p><b>Geoscience Australia</b></p>
<p><b>10.00pm</b></p>	<p><b>Adjournment</b></p>

**ADDITIONAL, ESTIMATES 2024-2025**  
**WITNESS LIST – as at 26 February 2025**

Department of Industry, Science and Resources

Secretary - Meghan Quinn PSM

**DISR Corporate**

<b>Name and title</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Neal Mason, Deputy Secretary, Enabling and Business Services Group	In person
<b>Analysis &amp; Insights</b>	
Michelle Dowdell, Head of Division / Chief Economist	In Person
Shevaun Fitzmyers, General Manager, Resource Economics	In Person
Kate Penney, General Manager, Economic and Industry Analysis	In Person
Bede Jones, General Manager, Data and Evaluation	In Person
Crystal Ossolinski, General Manager, Energy Transition and Industry Insights	In Person
<b>Business Grants Hub</b>	
Sam Chard, Head of Division, Business Grants Hub	In Person
<b>Chief Counsel and Integrity</b>	
Janean Richards, Chief Counsel / Head of Division	In Person
Deborah Miliszewski, General Manager, Public Law and Dispute Resolution	In Person
Rachel Besley, General Manager, Corporate and Information Law	In Person
<b>Chief Finance Officer</b>	
Leanne Yannopoulos, Chief Finance Officer / Head of Division	In Person
Joanna Stone, General Manager, External Budgets and Costings	In Person
<b>Chief Information Officer</b>	
Rebecca Lee, Chief Information Officer / Head of Division	In Person
<b>Chief Operating Officer</b>	
Casey Millward, A/g Chief Operating Officer / Head of Division	In Person
<b>International Trade &amp; National Security</b>	
Donna Looney, Head of Division	In Person
<b>Strategic Policy</b>	
Ray Marcelo, Head of Division	In person
Tegan Johnson, General Manager, Ministerial and Executive Enabling	In person

**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.

**Program 1.1: Growing innovative and competitive businesses, industries and regions**

<b>Name and title</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Troy Sloan, A/g Deputy Secretary, Industry and Commercialisation Group	In person
<b>Anti-Dumping Commission</b>	
David Latina, Commissioner	In Person
Isolde Lueckenhausen, Deputy Commissioner, Investigations	In Person
Esther Harvey, Acting Deputy Commissioner, Strategy and Operations	In Person
<b>AusIndustry</b>	
David Luchetti, Head of Division	In Person
David Chuter, Executive Director, Industry Growth Program	In Person
<b>Australian Building Codes Board</b>	
Gary Rake, Chief Executive Officer	In Person
<b>Commercialisation</b>	
Carl Chang, Head of Division, Commercialisation	In Person
Matthew Crawshaw, General Manager, R&DTI Branch	In Person
Mary Jeffries, Executive Director, Office of Industry, Innovation & Science Australia	In Person
<b>Industry and Manufacturing</b>	
Louise Talbot, General Manager, Building & Biotechnologies	In Person
Ana Markulev, General Manager, Sectoral Manufacturing Branch	In Person
Leah Wojcik, General Manager, Industrial Net Zero Transformation Branch	In Person
<b>Sovereign Capability and Supply Chains</b>	
Jocelyn Cooper, A/g Head of Division	In person
Jasminde Higgins, General Manager, National Reconstruction Fund Policy and Future Made in Australia Liaison Branch	In person
<b>Whyalla Steelworks Taskforce</b>	
Tara Oliver, Head of Division	In Person

**IP Australia**

<b>Name and title</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Michael Schwager, Director-General	In Person
Margaret Tregurtha, Deputy Director-General	In Person
Doug Pereira, General Manager and Chief Financial Officer	In Person
Jodie McAlister, General Manager, Policy and Stakeholder Group	In Person
Kelly Sims, General Manager, Governance Group	In Person
Justine Hall, General Manager, Customer Experience Group	In Person

**National Reconstruction Fund Corporation**

<b>Name and title</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
David Gall, Chief Executive Officer	In person
Dr Mary Manning, Chief Investment Officer	In person
Rebecca Manen, Chief Operating Officer	In person

**Outcome 1 (cont'd)****Program 1.2: Investing in science, technology, and commercialisation**

<b>Name and title</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Helen Wilson, Deputy Secretary, Science and Technology	In person
<b>Australian Space Agency</b>	
Mr Enrico Palermo, Head of Agency	In person
Mr Christopher De Luis, General Manager Office of the Space Regulator	In person
<b>National Measurement Institute</b>	
Dr Bruce Warrington	Virtual
<b>Questacon</b>	
Jo White, Director	In person
<b>Science</b>	
Anthony McGregor, Head of Division	In person
James Flick, General Manager- Technology Investment Branch	In person
Michele Graham, General Manager- Quantum Branch	In person
<b>Strategic Examination of Research and Development</b>	
Dr Anthony Millgate, Acting Head of Secretariat	In person
<b>Technology and Digital</b>	
Anthony Murfett, Head of Division	In person
Daniel Quinn, General Manager, AI Policy	In person
Brett Szmajda, A/g Executive Director, National AI Centre	In person

**Australia's Chief Scientist**

<b>Name and Title</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Professor Tony Haymet PhD FTSE	In person

**Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation**

<b>Name and title</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Dr Doug Hilton, Chief Executive	In person
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
Dr Jen Taylor, Executive Director – Future Industries	In person
Dr Jack Steele, Executive Project Manager – Government Engagement	In person
Paul Graham, Principal Research Scientist, Energy Economics	In person

**Outcome 1 (cont'd)****DISR Program 1.3: Supporting a strong resources sector**

<b>Name and title</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Robert Jeremenko, A/g Deputy Secretary, Resources and Strategy Group	In person
<b>Australian Radioactive Waste Agency</b>	
Sam Usher, Chief Executive Officer	In person
Jodie Lindsay, General Manager, Social License and Operational Support	In person
<b>Minerals and Resources</b>	
Peter Chesworth, Head of Division, Minerals and Resources	In-person
Kym Moore, General Manager, Mining Branch	In-person
Samantha Robertson, General Manager, Resources Tax Incentives Branch	In-person
Victoria Pullen, General Manager, Critical Minerals Security Branch	In-person
<b>Oil and Gas</b>	
David Lawrence, A/g Head of Division	In-person
Catherine Kesteven, A/g General Manager, Gas Branch	In-person
Cliff Weeks, General Manager, Offshore Resources Branch	In-person
Norelle Laucher, General Manager, Offshore Strategy Branch	In-person
Shane McWhinney, General Manager, Northern Endeavour Branch	In-person
William Tan, General Manager, Offshore Decommissioning Directorate	In-person
Graeme Waters, General Manager, National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator Branch	In-person

**Geoscience Australia**

<b>Name and title</b>	<b>Attendance</b>
Melissa Harris PSM, Chief Executive Officer	In person
Dr Andrew Heap, Chief of Minerals, Energy and Groundwater Division	In person
Maree Wilson, Chief of Place and Communities Division	In person
Alison Rose, Chief Space Division	In person
Trent Rawlings, Chief of Corporate Division	In person
Michael Olive, General Manager and Chief Finance Officer	In person
Charlie Middleton, A/g General Manager Enabling Services	In person
Simon Edmondson, A/g Chief Information Officer	In person
Dr Jodie Smith, A/g Chief Scientist	In Person

**National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority**

<b>Name and title</b>	
Sue McCarrey, Chief Executive Officer	In person
Graham Blair, Deputy CEO – Regulatory Operations	In person
Cameron Grebe, Deputy CEO - Strategic Regulation and Improvement	In person

**Outcome 1 (cont'd)****Program 1.4: Nuclear Powered Submarine Program****Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation**

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

**\*For Virtual attendance: Permission must be sought from the Economics Committee in writing. Please contact [PST](#) for their letter template.**

## Economics Legislation Committee Membership

### Committee Members

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#### Chair

**Senator Jess Walsh**

Australian Labor Party, VIC



#### Deputy Chair

**Senator Andrew Bragg**

Liberal Party of Australia, NSW



#### Member

**Senator Nick McKim**

Australian Greens, TAS



#### Member

**Senator Deborah O'Neill**

Australian Labor Party, NSW



#### Member

**Senator Dean Smith**

Liberal Party of Australia, WA



#### Member

**Senator Jana Stewart**

Australian Labor Party, VIC

### Participating Members

Senators Penny Allman-Payne, Alex Antic, Wendy Askew, Ralph Babet, Catryna Bilyk, Simon Birmingham, Leah Blyth, Slade Brockman, Carol Brown, Ross Cadell, Matthew Canavan, Michaelia Cash, Claire Chandler, Raff Ciccone, Richard Colbeck, Dorinda Cox, Lisa Darmanin, Perin Davey, Jonathon Duniam, Mehreen Faruqi, David Fawcett, Varun Ghosh, Nita Green, Karen Grogan, Pauline Hanson, Sarah Hanson-Young, Sarah Henderson, Steph Hodgins-May, Hollie Hughes, Jane Hume, Maria Kovacic, Jacqui Lambie, Kerrynne Liddle, Susan McDonald, James McGrath, Bridget McKenzie, Nick McKim, Andrew McLachlan, Jacinta Nampijinpa Price, Matt O'Sullivan, James Paterson, Fatima Payman, Barbara Pocock, David Pocock, Helen Polley, Louise Pratt, Gerard Rennick, Linda Reynolds, Malcolm Roberts, Anne Ruston, Paul Scarr, Dave Sharma, Tony Sheldon, David Shoebridge, Marielle Smith, Jordon Steele-John, Glenn Sterle, Lidia Thorpe, Tammy Tyrrell, Anne Urquhart, David Van, Larissa Waters, Peter Whish-Wilson.

Minister for Resources and Minister for Northern Australia  
The Hon Madeleine King MP

Minister for Industry and Science  
The Hon Ed Husic MP

Secretary  
Meghan Quinn PSM

Chief of Staff  
Nino Miletovic (a/g)

Deputy Secretary Resources and Strategy  
Jane Urquhart PSM

Deputy Secretary Industry and Commercialisation  
Troy Sloan (a/g)

Deputy Secretary Science and Technology  
Helen Wilson

Deputy Secretary Enabling and Business Services  
Neal Mason

Analysis and Insights	Australian Radioactive Waste Agency (ARWA)	International, Trade and National Security
Chief Economist Michelle Dowdell	CEO Sam Usher	Head of Division Donna Looney
Data and Evaluation Bede Jones	Policy, Governance and Strategy Mark Weaver	International Science and Resources Richard Samuels
Economic and Industry Analysis Kate Penney	Program Delivery Matthew Morrissey	National Security Engagement Jo Fielding (a/g)
Energy Transition and Industry Insights Crystal Ossolinski	Safety and Technical Amanda Fortanier	Trade and International Alison Drury
Resource Economics Shevaun Fitzmyers	Social License and Operational Support Jodie Lindsay	

Anti-Dumping Commission	AusIndustry	Australian Building Codes Board
Commissioner David Latina	Head of Division David Luchetti	CEO Gary Rake
Investigations Isolde Lueckenhausen	Business Outreach and Engagement Sarah Howard	
Strategy & Operations Esther Harvey (a/g)	Industry Growth Executive Director David Chuter	
	Industry Growth Program Delivery Tanya Blight	
	Industry Growth Program Policy Rebecca Lannen	

Australian Space Agency	National Measurement Institute	Questacon
Agency Head Enrico Palermo	CEO and Chief Metrologist Dr Bruce Warrington	Executive Director Jo White
National Space Capability, Technology and Programs Jarrod Powell	Analytical Services Tim Stobaus	Operations Steve Stirling
Office of the Space Regulator Chris De Luis	Chemical and Biological Metrology Dr Helen Salouros	Science and Learning Broderick Matthews (a/g)
Space Policy Chris Hewett	Legal Metrology Bill Loizides	
	Physical Metrology Dr Jan Herrmann	
	Strategy and Operations Lisa Hind	

Business Grants Hub	Chief Counsel and Integrity	Chief Finance Officer
Head of Division Sam Chard	Head of Division Janean Richards	Head of Division Leanne Yannopoulos
External and Assurance Noel Taloni	Corporate & Information Law Rachel Besley	External Budgets and Costings Jo Stone
External and Design Judith Blake	Integrity Jessica Casben	Financial and Shared Services Kirsty Bunfield
Internal and Design Kimberley Shrivs	Public Law & Dispute Resolution Deborah Millszewski	Financial Management Jane Childs
Internal and Systems Linda Lee		

Minerals and Resources	Oil and Gas	Strategic Policy
Head of Division Peter Chesworth	Head of Division Robert Jermenko	Head of Division Ray Marcelo
Critical Minerals Office Katherine Pohl (a/g)	Gas Catherine Kesteven (a/g)	Budget and Portfolio Policy Dwayne Purdy (a/g)
Critical Minerals Security Victoria Pullen	National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator Graeme Waters	Ministerial and Executive Enabling Tegan Johnson
Mining Kym Moore	Northern Endeavour Shane McWhinney	Whole of Government Policy and Priorities Hayley Arbaut-Zaalen
Resources Strategy Damien Dunn	Offshore Decommissioning Directorate William Tan	
Resources Tax Incentives Samantha Robertson	Offshore Resources Cliff Weeks	
	Offshore Strategy Norelle Laucher	
	Timor Sea David Lawrence	

Commercialisation	Industry and Manufacturing	Sovereign Capability and Supply Chains
Head of Division Matthew Crawshaw (a/g)	Head of Division Tara Oliver	Head of Division Jocelyn Cooper (a/g)
Office of Industry Innovation & Science Australia Mary Jeffries	Building and Biotechnologies Rebecca Wilson (a/g)	Batteries Jenene Askari (a/g)
Research and Development Tax Incentive Chiara Cirillo (a/g)	Industrial Net Zero Transformation Leah Wojcik	Industry Participation and Major Project Facilitation John Krbaleski
Venture Capital and Entrepreneurship Derek Stiller	Industry Policy Lucas Rutherford	NRF Policy and FMA Liaison Jasminder Higgins
	Sectoral Manufacturing Ana Markulev	Office of Supply Chain Resilience Tim Wong
	National Rail Manufacturing Advocate Jacqui Walters	

Science	Strategic Examination of R&D	Technology and Digital
Head of Division Anthony McGregor	Head of Secretariat Dom English	Head of Division Anthony Murett
Office of the Chief Scientist and Research Policy Paula Perrett		AI Governance Niki Strachan (a/g)
Quantum Michele Graham		AI Policy Dan Quinn
Science Governance and Astronomy Natalie Weddell		Technology Strategy and Engagement Jessica Foote
Science Policy Dianna Gaetjens		National AI Centre Brett Szmajda (a/g)
Technology Investment James Flick		

Chief Information Officer	Chief Operating Officer
Head of Division Rebecca Lee	Head of Division Casey Millward (a/g)
Digital Services for Business Simone Boulding	Communications Louise Wallensky
Digital Strategy and Cyber Security Somers Bloomfield	NMI Property Program Office Kellie Workman (a/g)
ICT Operations Keely Cairns (a/g)	People Tanja Watson
ICT Taskforce Stewart McGill	Property and Place Trent Brooks (a/g)

Principal Advisor – Strategy  
Camille de Burgh

Principal Advisor – Industry  
Deb Anton

Geoscience Australia  
Dr James Johnson, Chief Executive Officer

Industry Innovation and Science Australia (IISA)  
Andrew Stevens, Chair

IP Australia  
Michael Schwager, Director-General

Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO)  
Shaun Jenkinson, Chief Executive Officer

Chief Scientist  
Professor Tony Haymet

National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA)  
Sue McCarrey, Chief Executive Officer

NRF Corporation  
David Gall, Chief Executive Officer

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)  
Doug Hilton, Chief Executive

OFFICIAL



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

MS25-000128

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 responses to Questions on Notice (QoN) from the 2024-25 Supplementary Budget Estimates hearings held on 7 November 2025, and 25 November 2025. The information relates to the 130 QoNs pertinent to my responsibilities with the Industry, Science and Resources Portfolio.

Of the 130, 120 were due for tabling by 19 December 2024 and 10 were due for tabling by 9 January 2025.

Responses to 80 of the 130 QoNs were tabled by their respective due dates. Responses to the remaining 50 were provided to my office on the dates indicated in Attachment A to this letter.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Madeleine King'.

**Madeleine King MP**

Handwritten initials 'MK' followed by the date '12/2025'.

Enc (1) – Attachment A – Dates on which Supplementary Estimates QoNs were provided to my office.

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

ATTACHMENT A

<b>Dates QoNs provided</b>	<b>Number of QoNs provided</b>
2 December 2024	1
3 December 2024	18
4 December 2024	14
9 December 2024	7
11 December 2024	5
12 December 2024	2
13 December 2024	1
16 December 2024	1
18 December 2024	1

OFFICIAL



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

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

Dear Senator Walsh

Following a review of Hansard for the Senate Estimates hearing on Thursday, 7 November 2024, I am writing to correct the below evidence I provided on the day.

The following exchange occurred between myself and Senator Susan McDonald, and is reflected on page 111 of Hansard:

**Senator McDONALD:** *How many production licences?*

**Mr Weeks:** *Three.*

**Senator McDONALD:** *Which was the third one? We've already discussed two of them.*

**Mr Weeks:** *I just have a high-level granular table. I'll have to take that on notice to find out exactly what that was. I've just been told it was Dorado.*

Since the hearing, I have clarified that the third licence was Trefoil, and not Dorado as I indicated on the day.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Cliff Weeks'.

Cliff Weeks  
General Manager  
Offshore Resources Branch

13 December 2024



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

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

Dear Senator Walsh

Following a review of Hansard for the Senate Estimates hearings on 7 November 2024, I am writing to correct the below information provided on the day.

The following exchange occurred between Senator Dean Smith and Mr Michael Schwager:

**Senator DEAN SMITH:** Mr Schwager, what is the annual registration cost for someone to renew their registration, given that in this case the Australian Made logo is a registered trademark so they are renewing it annually?

**Mr Schwager:** I would suggest it's \$400.

We request Mr Schwager's response be amended to read:

**Mr Schwager:** I would suggest it's \$400 per class every ten years.

This amendment is to provide clarification, as the question was in relation to the **annual** registration.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Edwina', written in a cursive style.

Edwina Lewis  
Acting General Manager  
Policy and Stakeholders Group  
IP Australia

28 November 2024

## APPOINTMENTS

### Headline Statement

- Board appointments and existing vacancies have been reported under Senate Order 15 and are published at industry.gov.au. Details of current Boards and members are available at www.directory.gov.au.

### Key Points

- Ministerial appointment processes follow best practice advice from the Department of Prime Minister & Cabinet, Cabinet Handbook 15 and, where applicable, the Federal Executive Council Handbook and legislative processes. This includes undertaking due diligence and requiring private interest disclosures and conflict of interest declarations.
- As of 26 February 2025, appointments within the portfolio include:
  - 101 active board or committee appointees
  - 10 active single appointees
  - 42 board vacancies and
  - 0 single appointment vacancies.
- The gender balance is 51.5% women and 48.5% men.
- Since the last estimates hearing in November 2024, the following appointments have occurred:
  - Anti-Dumping Commissioner Mr David Latina was appointed by the Minister on 13 January 2025 for a five-year term.
  - Chief Scientist Professor Tony Haymet was appointed by the Minister on 28 January 2025 for three-year term.
  - National Reconstruction Fund (NRFC) CEO Mr David Gall was appointed on 28 January 2025 by the NRFC Board for a five-year term.

#### Contact Officer:

Name: Tegan Johnson  
Division: Strategic Policy

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Last updated: 27/02/2025 8:25:00 AM

- Research and Development Incentives Committee Chair Mr Murray Hurps was appointed by the Minister on 17 February 2025 for a three-year term
- 15 Chair and Member appointments across the Commonwealth Science Industry Research Organisation Board, Strategic Examination of Research and Development (SERD) Independent panel, Critical Minerals Independent Technical Panel, and National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environment Management Authority (NOPSEMA) Board.
- Within the Australian Space Agency, Leo Monkivitch has been appointed Launch Safety Officer for two launches.
- Attachments A and B detail Portfolio Appointments and Vacancies pertaining to Industry and Science and, Resources portfolios, respectively.
- Appointments are generally advertised, with some exceptions such as where specialist skills are required, acting appointments for short periods and to allow time for a fulsome recruitment and advertising processes to occur.
- The DISR portfolio provides data to the Office for Women (OFW) for the *Gender Balance on Australian Government Boards* which is included its annual report published on the OFW website. DISR continues to meet gender balance targets.

## Background

- As of 26 February 2025, the department was responsible for:
  - **12 single appointments:**
    - 7 classified as ‘significant’: appointed by the responsible Minister and approved by the Prime Minister or the Cabinet.
    - 2 classified as ‘non-significant’: appointed by the Minister.
    - 3 endorsed by Minister then the Prime Minister and/or the Cabinet, then appointed by the Board.
    - **All single appointments are substantively filled: none have acting arrangements in place.**
  - **21 boards and committees:** Appointments are made by the responsible Minister, the Prime Minister, the Cabinet or the Governor-General.
    - 11 boards are classified as significant appointments.
    - 10 boards are classified as non-significant appointments.

**Attachment A****Portfolio Appointments and Vacancies Report  
Minister for Industry and Science**

**Note:** Appointments announced, and vacancies identified since the end of the Senate Order 15 reporting period (15 October 2024 to 3 February 2025) are highlighted in yellow (as at 26 February).

**Appointments – Boards and Committees**

Commonwealth body	Appointee & Position Type	Term Start	Term End	Rem (\$)	State or Territory Residence
Industry Innovation and Science Australia Board	Dr Angeline Achariya	24/02/2025	23/02/2028	\$51,060 (per annum)	VIC
Industry Innovation and Science Australia Board	Mr Brodie McCulloch	24/02/2025	23/02/2028	\$51,060 (per annum)	WA
Industry Innovation and Science Australia Board	Ms Linda Margaret Scott JP GAICD	24/02/2025	23/02/2028	\$51,060 (per annum)	NSW
Research and Development Incentives Committee	Mr Murray Hurps	17/02/2025	16/02/2028	\$1,291 (per diem)	NSW
Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation Board	Dr Greg Storr Member	24/10/2024	23/10/2029	\$65,770 (per annum)	NSW
Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation Board	Dr Catherine Foley AO PSM Member	03/01/2025	02/01/2028	\$82,970 (per annum)	NSW
Industry Innovation and Science Australia Board	Mr Peter Rossdeutscher AM	23/01/2025	22/01/2028	\$113,450 (per annum)	WA
Rail Industry Innovation Council	Ms Vicki Brown Member	26/06/2023	06/06/2025*	\$11,980 (per annum)	QLD
	The Hon Rachel Nolan Member	30/06/2023	06/06/2025*	\$11,980 (per annum)	QLD
	Mr Graham Bentley Member	04/07/2023	06/06/2025*	\$11,980 (per annum)	WA
	Ms Katarzyna Stapleton Member	05/07/2023	06/06/2025*	-	QLD

Commonwealth body	Appointee & Position Type	Term Start	Term End	Rem (\$)	State or Territory Residence
Strategic Examination of Research and Development Independent Panel	Ms Robyn Denholm Chair	01/12/2024	31/12/2025	\$1,108 (per diem)	NSW
	Emeritus Professor Ian Chubb AC Member	30/11/2024	31/12/2025	\$886 (per diem)	ACT
	Professor Fiona Wood AO Member	02/12/2024	31/12/2025	\$886 (per diem)	WA
	Dr Kate Cornick Member	03/12/2024	31/12/2025	\$886 (per diem)	VIC

\* This was provided in Senate Order 15 report: 2 May 2023 – 2 October 2023 with incorrect term end dates. End dates have been corrected in this report.

## Single Appointments

Commonwealth body	Appointee & Position Type	Term Start	Term End	Rem (\$)	State or Territory Residence
Anti-Dumping Commissioner	Ms Isolde Lueckenhausen Acting Commissioner	19/11/2024	12/1/2025	\$331,023 (per annum)	VIC
	Mr David Latina Commissioner	13/01/2025	12/01/2030	\$465,126 (per annum)	VIC
Chief Scientist of Australia	Professor Tony Haymet Chief Scientist	28/01/2025	27/01/2028	\$551,700	NSW
Launch Safety Officer*	Mr Leo Monkivitch LSO	16/10/2024	30/08/2027	-	ACT
	Mr Leo Monkivitch LSO	04/11/2024	-	-	ACT

\*Appointment term end date is three months after the authorised launch; launch date yet unknown.

### Current Vacancies (intended to be filled)

\*Rows highlighted in yellow have changed since Senate Order 15 reporting.

Commonwealth body	Vacant Position
Anti-Dumping Review Panel	1 x Member
Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation Board	1 x Member
Australian Space Agency Advisory Board	1 x Chair, 1 x Deputy Chair, 8 x Member
Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation Board	2 x Member
Cooperative Research Centres Advisory Committee	1 x Member
Entrepreneurs' Programme Committee	3 x Member
Industry Growth Program Committee	1 x Member
Industry Innovation and Science Australia Board	1 Deputy Chair, 3 x Member
National Reconstruction Fund Corporation Board	1 x Member
R&D Incentives Committee	3 x Member
Rail Industry Innovation Council	2 x Member
Questacon Advisory Council	1 x Chair, 1 x Deputy Chair, 6 x Member

**Attachment B**

## Portfolio Appointments and Vacancies Report Minister for Resources

**Note:** Appointments announced, and vacancies identified since the end of the Senate Order 15 reporting period (15 October 2024 to 3 February 2025) are highlighted in yellow.

### Appointments – Boards and Committees

Commonwealth body	Appointee & Position Type	Term Start	Term End	Rem (\$)	State or Territory Residence
Critical Minerals Independent Technical Panel	Ms Donna Sheehy Member	26/11/2024	25/11/2025	\$12,826 (per annum)	QLD
	Professor Allan Trench Member	19/11/2024	18/11/2025	\$12,826 (per annum)	WA
National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority Advisory Board	Ms Anthea Tinney PSM Chair	07/01/2025	5/04/2025	\$76,650 (per annum)	ACT
	Ms Victoria Jackson Member	07/01/2025	5/04/2025	\$38,330 (per annum)	WA
	Mr Christopher Blackmore Member	07/01/2025	5/04/2025	\$38,330 (per annum)	WA

### 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
Critical Minerals Independent Technical Panel	3 x Member
National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority Advisory Board	2 x Member

## BUDGET OVERVIEW - MINISTER KING

### Headline Statement

- The Government is continuing to position the resources sector to play a vital role in building a Future Made in Australia, while meeting its environmental responsibilities.

### Policy Commitments

- In the 2024-25 MYEFO, the Government committed \$1 million over 3 years from 2024-25 to 2026-27 to sponsor the 2025 and 2027 Resources Technology Showcases in Perth, to support the public demonstration of the latest technological advances and future job possibilities in the mining, resources, defence and space industries in Western Australia.
- In addition, the Government is progressing its environmental and rehabilitation objectives in the resources sector, including:
  - the decommissioning of the Northern Endeavour floating oil production storage and offtake facility and
  - rehabilitation works at the former Rum Jungle mine site in the Northern Territory.
- These modest but important investments follow the Government's generational investments in the sector through the 2024-25 Budget, to position Australia as a global leader in geoscience and accelerate the discovery of critical minerals and other resources necessary for a Future Made in Australia and the net zero transition, including:
  - \$566.1 million over 10 years from 2024-25 and \$111.8 million per year on average from 2034-35 to 2058-59 for the Resourcing Australia's Prosperity program

#### Contact Officer:

Name: s22  
Division: Strategic Policy

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- \$207.3 million over 5 years from 2023-24, and \$38.2 million per year (indexed) ongoing for the Australia-United States partnership in the Landsat Next satellite mission and
- more than \$7 billion over the next decade to grow Australia’s critical minerals sector and strengthen economic security through programs such as the Critical Minerals Production Tax Incentive and the Critical Minerals Trade Enhancement Initiative.
- *Details of the 2024-25 MYEFO measures (Table 1) for the Resources portfolio are provided in the table over the page.*

Table 1

2024-25 MYEFO Measures		
Measure Component	Funding over FE (\$m)	Description/Update
<b>Science and Resources Technology Uplift</b>		
Resources Technology Showcase	1	\$1.0 million over three years from 2024–25 to sponsor the 2025 and 2027 Resources Technology Showcases in Perth, to support the public demonstration of the latest technological advances and future job possibilities in the mining, resources, defence and space industries in Western Australia.
<b>Supporting Safety and Remediation in the Resources Sector</b>		
Decommissioning of the Northern Endeavour	nfp	Funding for the decommissioning of the Northern Endeavour floating oil production storage and offtake facility. Costs will be fully recovered through the Laminaria and Corallina Decommissioning Cost Recovery Levy. The financial implication of this measure is not for publication (nfp) due to commercial sensitivities.
Rum Jungle Rehabilitation	nfp	Funding to progress rehabilitation works at the former Rum Jungle mine site in the Northern Territory by prioritising rehabilitation in areas which require urgent treatment. The financial implication of this measure is not for publication (nfp) due to commercial sensitivities.

## RESOURCES AND ENERGY OUTLOOK

### Headline Statement

- The department is forecasting commodity prices will settle at lower levels than the extraordinary peaks of 2022-23, resulting in declines in the value of resources exports.

### Key Points

- Australia's resources export volumes are expected to rise over the next few years, supported by continued strength in the pipeline of major projects.
  - Projects under development include both new energy and traditional commodities.
- However, the value of Australia's resources exports is forecast to fall to \$351 billion by 2025–26 from \$415 billion in 2023–24 as commodity prices settle at lower levels than in 2022–23.
- Mineral exploration remains strong, suggesting mining companies remain confident about Australia's long-term investment prospects.
  - \$1.03 billion was invested in mineral exploration in the September quarter of 2024. This figure is high compared to the quarterly historical average of \$0.75 billion since September 2016.
- China's economic performance is a key driver of Australia's resources exports.
  - In response to relatively subdued economic results, the Chinese Government has taken measures to boost growth. There are signs China's economy is starting to respond. The IMF's latest *World Economic Outlook* forecasts China's economy will grow by 4.6 per cent in 2025 – a small upward revision compared to its previous outlook attributable to China's November 2024 fiscal package.
- An increase in protectionist trade policies and the AUD/USD exchange rate are key risks to the department's forecasts.

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Last updated: 11/02/2025 10:33:00 AM

## Background

- The December 2024 *Resources and Energy Quarterly* (REQ) found aggregate resource commodity prices have fallen in US\$ terms since the previous REQ. Falls in the prices of oil and lithium drove this trend.
- Geopolitical developments continue to pose risks to the outlook for commodity markets, raising prices for some commodities such as gold. Changes to policies impacting Australian resources exports (such as US trade policy) will be factored into departmental forecasts as they are implemented.
- The **gold** price reached new records in early February 2025 as geopolitical tensions investors sought safe havens. Australian gold mine production is forecast to grow 7.9 per cent year-on-year to 309 tonnes in 2025-26. The investment pipeline for gold mining remains healthy, with 38 gold projects in the 2024 *Resources and Energy Major Projects Report* (REMP; up from 27 in 2023).
- **LNG** prices remain high but could face downward pressure from 2025 as new US and Qatari supply reaches markets. Australian LNG exports are expected to hold largely steady, easing marginally from 81 million tonnes (Mt) in 2023–24 to 79Mt by 2025–26. The oil and gas project pipeline remains solid, with 44 projects in the 2024 REMP (up from 39 in 2023).
- **Iron ore** prices finished 2024 down by more than a quarter compared to the end of 2023. The falls reflect weak global demand driven by China's ongoing property sector downturn, strong growth in iron ore supply and high stockpiles. Australian iron ore export volumes are expected to increase from 898Mt in 2023–24 to 928Mt by 2025–26. The project pipeline has improved, with 41 iron ore projects in the 2024 REMP (up from 33 in 2023).
- **Metallurgical coal** prices have declined recently but should recover by 2026. Production is forecast to increase to 178Mt in 2025-26, with export volumes reaching 174Mt. The project pipeline for coal (metallurgical and thermal combined) has shrunk, with 47 coal projects in the 2024 REMP (down from 53 in 2023).
- **Thermal coal** prices are still above pre-pandemic levels. Production and export volumes are expected to remain stable through to 2025-26 (production forecast is 245MT, export volume forecast is 204MT).

# NATIONAL RADIOACTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT

## Headline Statement

- The Australian Government is committed to managing Australia's radioactive waste safely and securely.

## Key Points

- Australia's radioactive waste is currently safely managed in temporary storage arrangements.
- The Government is committed to establishing permanent disposal pathways for Australia's radioactive waste to ensure safe and secure management of this waste for generations to come.

## Policy Commitments

- In the 2023-24 Budget, the Government reaffirmed its commitment to the long-term management of Australia's radioactive waste.
  - For the first time, the Government provided ongoing funding of the Australian Radioactive Waste Agency (ARWA), to support a responsible and sustainable approach for the long-term management and permanent disposal of the Commonwealth's radioactive waste.
- On 18 July 2023, the Federal Court set aside the site declaration for the National Radioactive Waste Manager Facility (the Facility) finding apprehended bias present in the decision of the former Minister.
- On 10 August 2023, in a statement to Parliament, the Minister for Resources announced that:
  - the Government did not intend to pursue Napandee as a potential site for the Facility, nor pursue the previously shortlisted Lyndhurst and Wallerberdina sites;
  - her department had begun work on alternative proposals for the storage and disposal of the Commonwealth's civilian low-level and intermediate-level radioactive waste;

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- site characterisation activities at and around the site near Kimba had ceased;
- activities already conducted were non-permanent and would be reversed or remediated.
- Her department has implemented a remediation plan to ensure site characterisation activities undertaken at the former site were remediated in accordance with applicable laws and other project specific requirements.
- Following the completion of site remediation and decommissioning activities in 2024, her department is now conducting activities to prepare for Commonwealth disposition of the former site.
- The site is currently being supervised to ensure it remains safe and cultural heritage is protected while we work through disposition of the land.

## **Background**

- 26 November 2021: former Minister for Resources and Water, the Member for Hinkler, declared land at Napandee, near the town of Kimba, in South Australia, as the proposed site for the Facility.
- 20 December 2021: the Barnjarla Determination Aboriginal Corporation (BDAC) and two BDAC members exercised their right to judicial review of the former Minister's declaration.
- 18 July 2023: the Federal Court set aside the site declaration finding apprehended bias present in the decision of the former Minister.
- The department through ARWA is supporting the Nuclear Powered Submarine Program with advice on radioactive waste management and disposal. A decision on the disposal of radioactive waste from Australia's future conventionally armed nuclear-powered submarines has not been made.
  - Further questions should be directed to the Department of Defence.
- In the 2024–25 Budget, the Government through the Update on Radioactive Waste Management measure reprofiled \$43.0 million over six years from 2024–25 to ARWA. This funding includes:
  - \$38.8 million over two years from 2024–25 to assess options around alternative pathways for disposal of the Commonwealth's radioactive waste; and
  - \$4.2 million over six years from 2024–25 to undertake remediation, supervision, and disposition activities of the former National Radioactive Waste Management Facility site following the outcome of the litigation in the Federal Court about the siting of the facility in July 2023.
- The Government reprofiled \$119.2 million over six years from 2024-25 to allow for the development of future disposal pathways for the Commonwealth's radioactive waste. This funding was used to contribute to the approximately \$2.15 billion that the Resources portfolio has committed to budget reprioritisation and repair since the October 2022-23 Budget.

## GAS SUPPLY AND PRICE

### Headline Statement

- As Australia transitions to a net zero economy, the Australian Government is working to ensure secure access to reliable and affordable gas for Australians.

### Key Points

- The Future Gas Strategy was released in May 2024, and sets out the Government's approach to meeting Australia's gas needs through to 2050 and beyond.
- The Government has implemented domestic energy security measures, notably the Heads of Agreement and the Mandatory Gas Market Code of Conduct, which are backed by the Australian Domestic Gas Security Mechanism (ADGSM)
  - these measures work together to ensure access to affordable gas.
- The Government has committed to focusing future offshore acreage releases to optimise existing discoveries and infrastructure and is reviewing retention lease policies to enforce a stricter use-it-or-lose it approach.
- While gas supply is declining in southern Australia, there is continued investment in exploration and production both offshore and onshore, to bring new gas supplies to the market. Recent market activity includes:
  - Two new gas production licences in offshore Victoria granted to Beach Energy in September 2024. All gas from these fields will boost domestic supply to the east coast market.
  - In Queensland, Senex Energy is progressing its \$1 billion expansion in the Surat Basin, which will deliver 60 petajoules a year to the east coast market from the end of 2025.
- Four regassification terminals for liquified natural gas (LNG) are under development, with Port Kembla completing construction in December 2024.

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## Background

- To improve gas reliability and affordability for Australians the Government's actions include:
  - Heads of Agreement with east coast LNG exporters signed in September, and the Energy Price Relief Plan announced in December 2022
  - reforms to the ADGSM were implemented in April and the Gas Market Code commenced in July 2023
  - extension of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission's (ACCC) Gas Inquiry to 2030
  - the Energy and Climate Change Ministerial Council (ECMC) agreed in December 2024 to work with AEMO and Senior Officials to advise on potential expanded powers for AEMO to address the East Coast gas supply issues and to recommend policy options.

### *Future Gas Strategy*

- The Future Gas Strategy provides clear evidence that gas will be required until 2050 and beyond, and that investment in new gas supply is needed if we are to reach net zero while maintaining a thriving and diverse economy.
- The accompanying Future Gas Strategy Analytical Report suggests that a combination of supply side and demand side solutions are likely required to address the shortfall.

### *Australian Domestic Gas Security Mechanism (ADGSM)*

- In 2023, the ADGSM was updated to better respond to market volatility and shocks to global gas supply. The ADGSM will be reviewed in 2025.

### *Heads of Agreement (HoA)*

- The HoA is a voluntary, industry-led agreement, signed in September 2022 between the Commonwealth and the east coast LNG exporters to ensure secure and competitively priced gas for the domestic market. It expires on 1 January 2026 and will be reviewed in 2025.

### *Gas Market Code*

- The Code, which came into force on 11 July 2023 and will be reviewed in 2025, facilitates a well-functioning domestic east coast gas market with adequate supply, at reasonable prices, and on reasonable terms.
- The Code's exemptions framework incentivises producers to commit more gas to the east coast gas market and facilitates new investment to meet ongoing demand.
- The Commonwealth has secured supply commitments of up to 604 PJ to 2033 under the Code's conditional Ministerial exemptions framework in return for an exemption from the \$12 price anchor in the Code. The ACCC has reported this may delay forecast annual supply gaps by up to a year (from 2027 to 2028).

# OFFSHORE CONSULTATION REQUIREMENTS AND REGULATORY REFORM

## Headline Statement

- The Government's review of the offshore oil and gas consultation requirements is progressing. The Government is considering submissions on how to clarify and improve consultation requirements to ensure genuine and effective engagement.

## Key Points

- On 9 May 2023, the Government announced an offshore environmental management review.
- Initial scoping and project planning was undertaken in mid-2023, including development of Terms of Reference.
- In September 2023, the department began working on Part 2 of the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Legislation Amendment (Safety and Other Measures) Bill to support implementation of outcomes of the review.
- Between 12 January and 8 March 2024, the Government sought feedback on a discussion paper about the consultation requirements for offshore activities.
  - The paper was published on the department's website and emailed to more than 500 groups and individuals, which included over 300 First Nations representatives.
  - The department met with over 30 interested parties and an online public information session was held on 28 February 2024.
- 106 responses were received from environmental groups, First Nations peoples and communities, fishing peak bodies and fishers, individuals, government agencies and the offshore petroleum industry.
- The department continues to develop policy reforms taking into consideration the feedback received.

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Last updated: 16/01/2025

- Timing of implementation of those reforms is a decision for the Government.

## Policy Commitments

- In the 2023 Budget, the Government committed \$12 million over 3 years to review the environmental management regime for offshore petroleum and greenhouse gas storage activities to ensure it is fit for-purpose for a decarbonising economy.
- The review includes consideration of the consultation requirements for offshore petroleum and greenhouse gas storage activities. The department is developing regulatory reform options to increase clarity and legal certainty of the consultation requirements for offshore environmental approvals.
- The Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) is implementing the Nature Positive Plan and developing new national standards for First Nations Engagement and Community Consultation.
- The department is working with DCCEEW to ensure that the outcomes of the offshore consultation reforms align with the new national standards under the Nature Positive Plan, to the extent they are relevant to the regime.

## Background

- In January 2024, the government released a consultation paper, *Clarifying consultation requirements for offshore petroleum and greenhouse gas regulatory approvals*.
- The paper sought views on the consultation process for activities in Commonwealth waters.
- A consistent theme in the feedback was that the current consultation provisions contain elements of ambiguity which can lead to poor consultation outcomes for all participants.
- Key themes raised during consultation include:
  - information accessibility, including consideration of varying literacy levels, language barriers and access to reliable digital services
  - coordination and consistency of consultation processes, including taking into consideration seasonal commitments and not having overlapping processes
  - information inappropriately targeted to a person's functions, interests or activities
  - unclear language and understanding of definitions under the current Regulations on who is a relevant person, and what constitutes a function, interest or activity.

# AUSTRALIA-UNITED STATES PARTNERSHIP IN LANDSAT NEXT

## Headline Statement

- Australia and the United States are partnering in the next generation of the flagship Landsat satellite land imaging program. The partnership assures access to data critical to Australia's economic, environmental and social decision making.

## Key Points

- On 5 August 2024, Minister for Foreign Affairs Penny Wong and US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken signed a Ministerial Communique.
  - This formally welcomed the commencement of a new phase in the near fifty-year relationship and highlighted the partnership's importance to the two countries and the broader Indo-Pacific.
- The Communique followed the 2 August 2024 signing of implementing arrangements that govern delivery of the partnership by senior officials of Geoscience Australia and the United States Geological Survey.
- The United States will assure access to free, streamlined and prioritised satellite land imaging data from its current and future Landsat satellites, including Landsat Next.
  - This will enable Australians to use this data to support improved decision making; and
  - unlock new opportunities for science and innovation in areas such as climate change adaptation and improved agricultural productivity.
- Australia will:
  - provide essential satellite ground station support from an upgraded Alice Springs Ground Station capability;

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Last updated: 11/02/2025 3:44:00 PM

- contribute capabilities in data processing, distribution, quality assurance and analytics including Artificial Intelligence techniques; and
- invest in new science to exploit the enhanced data to be generated by Landsat Next.
- Australia will invest \$207.3 million over four years and then an average of \$38.2 million ongoing into the partnership.
  - None of the funding is being transferred to the United States Government; it will be expended by Geoscience Australia consistent with the Commonwealth Procurement Rules.
- Geoscience Australia will employ additional engineers, scientists, data analysts and other professionals – including in Alice Springs – to deliver on Australia’s commitments.
  - The entity will increase its average ASL by 48 staff after ramp-up.
- Landsat Next is scheduled for launch no earlier than mid-2031.
  - It will provide higher resolution land imaging data, more frequently, and with greater fidelity, than previous satellites.
  - It will provide more information on our lands and coasts in one year than has been delivered in the past 50 years of the Landsat program.

### **Policy Commitments**

- The Australia-United States Partnership in Landsat Next was announced as part of Budget 24-25 under the “Future Made in Australia – Investing in Innovation, Science and Digital Capabilities” measure.