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A compilation of questions to - and answers by - Australia
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UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

[Question by](#) United States of America at Tuesday, 31 March 2015

[Category:](#) Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

[Type:](#) Before 31 of March

[Title:](#) Limits on International Units

The Biennial Report states that under Australia's emissions trading scheme there are quantitative and qualitative limits on the use of international units. In the absence of this emissions trading scheme, are there other limits?

[Answer by](#) Australia at Thursday, 28 May 2015

Australia is focusing on domestic action to meet its emission reduction target, with a Direct Action Plan that will efficiently and effectively source low-cost emission reductions within Australia.

[Question by](#) United States of America at Tuesday, 31 March 2015

[Category:](#) Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

[Type:](#) Before 31 of March

[Title:](#) Emissions Reduction Fund

Will the Emissions Reduction Fund constitute the primary measure implemented to replace the ETS, or are other significant Policies and Measures being contemplated?

[Answer by](#) Australia at Thursday, 28 May 2015

The Australian Government is firmly committed to reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions to five per cent below 2000 levels by 2020. The centrepiece of the Government's emissions reduction efforts is the \$2.55 billion Emissions Reduction Fund which commenced purchasing emissions abatement in April 2015.

Accompanying the Fund will be the safeguard mechanism to ensure emissions reductions purchased in this way are not undone elsewhere in the Australian economy. The final design of the mechanism is subject to ongoing consultation with business and will commence on 1 July 2016.

Other significant policies complement the measures in place under the Emissions Reduction Fund.

The Australian Government believes that renewable energy will play an important and increasing role in Australia's energy future. It is committed to a Renewable Energy Target that allows sustainable growth in both small and large scale renewable energy. Under the Government's proposal, over 23 per cent of Australia's electricity in 2020 would come from renewable sources.

The Government has also committed to develop a National Energy Productivity Plan with an aspirational National Energy Productivity target of up to 40 per cent

improvement between 2015 and 2030. The plan is also expected to reduce Australia's greenhouse emissions and will make a significant contribution towards Australia's post-2020 emissions target. It will be underpinned by a broad set of measures, bringing together policy action across energy market reform and energy efficiency, including the electricity, gas and transport sectors, under a single framework. The National Energy Productivity Plan framework and initial work plan are expected to be agreed with States through COAG's Energy Council by the end of 2016.

Energy productivity measures, such as energy efficiency, are also helping to reduce emissions. The Government, working with the states and territories, is already implementing measures in buildings and appliances that contribute to reducing our emissions. These include:

- Mandatory Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) and mandatory Energy Rating Labels used to improve the energy efficiency of appliances and equipment in the residential, commercial and industrial sectors.
- Australia's National Construction Code (or NCC) which sets building codes for housing, multi-unit residential and non-residential buildings.
- A range of information, capacity building and knowledge sharing web resources including the Energy Efficiency Exchange (eex.gov.au), YourEnergySavings.gov.au and YourHome.gov.au websites.

State and Territory governments have also established legislated emissions reduction targets. For example, South Australia (SA) and Tasmania have 2050 emission reduction targets of *at least* 60 per cent below 1990 levels.

Question by Saudi Arabia at Tuesday, 31 March 2015

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: The assessment of the economic and social consequences of response measures

Q1: Did Australia encounter difficulty in reporting on its assessment of the economic and social consequences of response measures in the BR, especially that it was able to provide information on its National Communication? Will Australia be providing information in the next BR?

Q2: Could Australia provide details on its initiative to support sustainable development and how can that help developing countries adapt to the social and economic consequences of response measures (reported in the National Communication, but not on the BR)?

Answer by Australia at Thursday, 28 May 2015

While this question is outside the scope of the multilateral assessment, Australia can advise that:

Australia provided information on response measures in its National Communication, in accordance with the Kyoto Protocol National Communication Guidelines. This information on response measures was not included in Australia's Biennial Report in order to avoid duplication.

Australia provided additional information during the in-country review, and will consider providing further information on this in its next Biennial Report.

Information on the support Australia has provided for sustainable development can be found in chapter six of our first Biennial Report and chapter seven of our sixth National Communication.

Question by United States of America at Tuesday, 31 March 2015

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: Surplus AAUs

The Technical Review of the Biennial Report stated that Australia has not decided how to use the carry-over of surplus assigned amount units (estimated to be 130,800 kt CO₂ eq) from the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. Has there been a decision on this question?

Answer by Australia at Thursday, 28 May 2015

Australia will consider the use of the carry-over of surplus assigned amount units as part of the true up period that will take place later in 2015.

Question by United States of America at Tuesday, 31 March 2015

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: Market Mechanisms

The Biennial Report states that Australia's targets represent net emissions and include credible Kyoto-compliant units from emission reduction activities overseas as to be reflected in the Australian National Registry of Emissions Units. Could Australia clarify current expectations regarding the use of market mechanisms for achieving its 2020 target?

Answer by Australia at Thursday, 28 May 2015

Australia is focusing on domestic action to meet its emission reduction target, with a Direct Action Plan that will efficiently and effectively source low-cost emission reductions within Australia.

Question by Brazil at Tuesday, 31 March 2015

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: Mitigation actions

In “CTF Table 3 Progress in achievement of the quantified economy-wide emission reduction target: information on mitigation actions and their effects” are listed only 6 mitigation actions. These may be too few considering the needs of GHG emissions reduction. Are there additional actions to be presented?

Answer by Australia at Thursday, 28 May 2015

The Australian Government is firmly committed to reducing Australia’s greenhouse gas emissions to five per cent below 2000 levels by 2020. Since the submission of the BR there have been changes to the policies and measures in place to achieve Australia’s target. The centrepiece of the Government’s emissions reduction efforts is the \$2.55 billion Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF), which commenced purchasing emissions abatement in April 2015.

The ERF builds upon the existing Carbon Farming Initiative and provides incentives for cleaning up Australia’s environment through activities such as revegetation, investing in soil carbon, cleaning up power stations, capturing gas from landfill and increasing energy efficiency.

Potential ERF participants with an emissions reduction project can apply to the Clean Energy Regulator to have their project registered. ERF methods outline how to calculate the emissions reductions achieved by an ERF project. As emissions reductions are achieved, the Regulator will issue one Australian Carbon Credit Unit (ACCU) for each tCO₂-e of GHG emissions avoided or sequestered.

Proponents with a registered project are able to participate in reverse auctions run by the Regulator. Through these auctions, the Government purchases ACCUs by entering into standard contracts with successful bidders. The Regulator held the first auction under the ERF across 15-16 April, where the purchase of over 47 million ACCUs was contracted for. Detailed results of the auction are available here: <http://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/Emissions-Reduction-Fund/Want-to-participate-in-the-Emissions-Reduction-Fund/step2/auction-results-april-2015/Pages/Default.aspx>

As part of the ERF a safeguard mechanism will ensure emissions reductions purchased through auctions are not undone elsewhere in the Australian economy. The final design of the mechanism is subject to ongoing consultation with business and will commence on 1 July 2016.

In addition to these and other measures listed in the CTF table 3 Australia has in place a number of mitigation policies in the energy sector. These include the Renewable Energy Target, the Solar Towns programme, a range of energy efficiency measures and state-based renewable energy and energy efficiency schemes. Abatement from these initiatives are included in Australia's business as usual projections scenario.

[Question by Brazil](#) at Tuesday, 31 March 2015

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: Use of market based mechanisms

In "CTF Table 3 Progress in achievement of the quantified economy-wide emission reduction target: information on mitigation actions and their effects" are listed some activities related to Emissions Trading Scheme from 2015-16 as well as to a credit scheme that allows farmers and landholders who take steps to reduce carbon pollution to generate carbon credits. Credits can be traded into the emissions trading scheme. In addition, Table 2 (e) informs possible scale of contributions from CERS, ERUs, AAUs, carry-over unities and other mechanism units under the Convention. But, at the same time, CTF Table 4 does not include quantity of units from market based mechanisms under the Convention nor quantity of units from other market based mechanisms. Please consider the contradiction between the information.

[Answer by Australia](#) at Thursday, 28 May 2015

CTF Table 4 covered data available on the use of market based mechanisms, up to 2011. No units from market-based mechanisms had been relinquished at that time.

The Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI) commenced operation on 8 December 2011, with the first emissions reduction units issued in 2012.

The Carbon Price was introduced in July 2012 and applied to around 370 liable entities. The first phase of the Carbon Tax was the fixed carbon price, which was set at \$23 a tonne in 2012-13 and \$24.15 in 2013-14. During the first fixed price phase, liable entities could purchase and surrender Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs) generated through the CFI to reduce their liability. Nearly 23,000 of these ACCUs were relinquished in the financial year 2013-14.

The proposed Emissions Trading Scheme was the second phase of a Carbon Tax and was due to commence in July 2015. In this second phase, as announced, certain units from market mechanisms under the convention could be used to reduce liability. The BR estimated that the ETS would drive the sourcing of 100 MtCO₂-e from overseas (CTF Table 2(e)).

However, the Carbon Tax was abolished before the ETS commenced, and was replaced by the Government's Direct Action Plan. The Plan is focused on achieving emissions reductions in Australia. The centrepiece of this Plan is the Emissions Reduction Fund (the Fund). The Fund builds on the former CFI and, through reverse auctions, will purchase emissions reduction units from emissions reduction projects across the economy.

Question by United States of America at Tuesday, 31 March 2015

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: Voluntary Cancellations

Does Australia plan to follow the Expert Review Team recommendation to report on the emission reductions achieved through the National Carbon Offset Standard Carbon Neutral Program in its next BR submission, and on the cancellation of Kyoto Protocol units where Australian carbon credit units, generated by the Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI) or ERF projects, are voluntarily cancelled by participants in the National Carbon Offset Standard Carbon Neutral Program?

Answer by Australia at Thursday, 28 May 2015

Participants of the National Carbon Offset Standard (NCOS) Carbon Neutral Program are required to report on their total annual emissions and to offset these in order to claim carbon neutrality. They are also required to develop an Emissions Management Plan which includes emission reduction measures. However, current reporting and auditing obligations under the NCOS Carbon Neutral Program do not provide detailed data on emission reductions from year to year, including on the extent to which emission reductions may be the result of external factors such as changes in production or downscaling. Consequently, Australia does not have the data that would be needed to report on emission reductions achieved by the NCOS Carbon Neutral Program.

The Australian government maintains its commitment to cancel Kyoto units where Australian carbon credit units (ACCUs) are voluntarily cancelled, including where those ACCUs are cancelled to meet claims under the NCOS Carbon Neutral Program. However as yet no ACCUs, and hence no Kyoto Protocol units, have been cancelled due to activities under the NCOS Carbon Neutral Program. The NCOS Carbon Neutral Program allows participants to use a suite of offset units to meet their carbon neutral claims.

Question by Brazil at Tuesday, 31 March 2015

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: Level of ambition

“In May 2013, Australia also announced its decision to further broaden coverage of the land sector to include net emissions from cropland management, grazing land management and revegetation activities within its second commitment period target. These changes will be incorporated in the 2013 Australia’s Emissions projections expected to be released in late 2013”. This kind of action seems to make the level of ambition lower, not higher. How will this contribute to meeting Australia's target?

Answer by Australia at Thursday, 28 May 2015

Australia has always encouraged comprehensive reporting by Parties across all sectors. Such an approach promotes accountability and environmental integrity, giving the international community the best possible picture of what the atmosphere ‘sees’ in terms of greenhouse gas emissions, and increasing the range of mitigation options to enable the most economically efficient approach to addressing emissions.

The inclusion of the new land activities will raise accountability and will provide for the effects of changes in cultivation, pasture, grazing and fire management practices to be estimated for the first time.

Recent estimates, incorporated into Australia’s emissions projections released in March 2015, indicate the additionally elected LULUCF activities are an increasing net source of emissions. Cropland management, grazing land management and revegetation contributed net emissions of 2 Mt in 2013 and will contribute net emissions of around 4.5 Mt per year over 2013-2020.

Further details on emissions projections for these activities can be found in the forthcoming land sector sectoral report on Australia’s 2014-15 emissions projections, which will be available at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/climate-change/greenhouse-gas-measurement/publications>

[Question by Brazil at Tuesday, 31 March 2015](#)

[Category:](#) Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

[Type:](#) Before 31 of March

[Title:](#) Level of ambition 2

Considering the low level of ambition presented until now, as well as the historical data, does Australia intend to change its unconditional target in order to increase its level of ambition?

[Answer by Australia at Thursday, 28 May 2015](#)

Australia's 2020 target is ambitious and comparable to other advanced economies across a range of base years and metrics such as percentage change in emissions, reductions in emissions per capita, emissions intensity and emissions from business-as-usual.

Australia is undertaking substantial policy action to meet its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target of a 5 per cent reduction on 2000 levels by 2020, equivalent to a 13 per cent reduction on 2005 levels. Under a business as usual scenario, without Australia's Emissions Reduction Fund, Australia's emissions are forecast to be 17 per cent above 2000 levels in 2020 and 30 per cent above 2000 levels in 2030.

Australia's emissions projections 2014-15 show that Australia's target represents a reduction in emissions per unit of GDP of 48 per cent between 1999-2000 and 2019-2020 and a reduction in per capita emissions of 30 per cent over the same period. The Government is currently reviewing Australia's international targets.

[Question by Brazil at Tuesday, 31 March 2015](#)

[Category:](#) Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

[Type:](#) Before 31 of March

[Title:](#) Ambition towards 5% reduction target

Australia's total greenhouse gas emissions (excluding the LULUCF sector) increased by 32 per cent between 1990 and 2011. When the LULUCF sector emissions and removals are included, Australia's net greenhouse gas emissions in 2011 decreased by 2 per cent compared with 1990 levels. The Australian Government has committed to a quantified economy-wide emission reduction target of 5 per cent on 2000 levels by 2020. But based in Table 6 (a) (Information on updated greenhouse gas projections Under a 'With Measures' Scenario), the GHG emission increase from 529 644 kt CO₂ eq in the base year to 613 535 kt CO₂ eq in 2020. Please, explain this

difference. How Australia is planning to achieve the referred target of 5% (Additional policies and measures, KP mechanisms or account for other LULUCF activities not included up to now)?

[Answer by Australia](#) at Thursday, 28 May 2015

The Australian Government is firmly committed to reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions to five per cent below 2000 levels by 2020.

Since the submission of the BR in 2013 there have been changes to Australia's climate change policies and measures that are in place to achieve Australia's target.

Australia released the 2014-15 Emissions Projections in March 2015. Information contained in the projections, including assumptions, conditions and methodologies used can be found at <http://www.environment.gov.au/climate-change/emissions-projections>. These projections update Australia's expected outlook for emissions and take account the repeal of the carbon price.

The centrepiece of the Government's emissions reduction efforts is the \$2.55 billion Emissions Reduction Fund which commenced purchasing emissions abatement in April 2015. Australia's Clean Energy Regulator held the first auction under the ERF across 15-16 April, where the purchase of over 47 million tonnes of emissions abatement was contracted for. Detailed results of the auction are available here: <http://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/Emissions-Reduction-Fund/Want-to-participate-in-the-Emissions-Reduction-Fund/step2/auction-results-april-2015/Pages/Default.aspx>.

As part of the ERF a safeguard mechanism will ensure emissions reductions purchased through auctions are not undone elsewhere in the Australian economy. The final design of the mechanism is subject to ongoing consultation with business and will commence on 1 July 2016.

In addition to these and other measures listed in the CTF table 3 Australia has in place a number of mitigation policies in the energy sector. These include the Renewable Energy Target, the Solar Towns programme, a range of energy efficiency measures and state-based renewable energy and energy efficiency schemes. Abatement from these initiatives are included in Australia's business as usual projections scenario.

The emissions projections used in Australia's BR were sourced from Australia's 2012 Projections. The 'With measures' scenario presented in Table 6 (a) represented the 2012 estimate of domestic emissions in 2020 on a UNFCCC classification basis. Australia's target is based on the Kyoto Protocol classification system and is a net emissions target. Australia's 2012 Projections, reported in the NC6, estimated net emissions in 2020 at 537 Mt CO₂-e, including the use of international abatement sourced through the planned emissions trading scheme. Domestic emissions under the same scenario were projected to reach around 637 Mt CO₂-e.

Question by Brazil at Tuesday, 31 March 2015

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: Discrepancy in information

Page 5-47 contains the following information: "Australia's Emissions Projections 2012 shows that the emissions trading scheme, the CFI and Australia's existing suite of policy measures including the Renewable Energy Target and energy efficiency measures are projected to limit Australia's net emissions to 537 Mt CO₂-e in 2020, consistent with Australia's unconditional commitment to reduce emissions by 5 per cent below 2000 levels in 2020". But based in Table 6 (a) ("Information on updated greenhouse gas projections Under a 'With Measures' Scenario"), the GHG emission increase from 529 644 kt CO₂ eq in the base year to 613 535 kt CO₂ eq in 2020. Please, explain this different information.

Answer by Australia at Thursday, 28 May 2015

The emissions projections used in Australia's BR were sourced from Australia's 2012 Projections. The 'With measures' scenario presented in Table 6 (a) represents the 2012 estimate of domestic emissions in 2020 on a UNFCCC classification basis. Australia's target is based on the Kyoto Protocol classification system and is a net emissions target. Australia's 2012 Projections, reported in the NC6 and on page 5-47 of the BR, estimated net emissions in 2020 at 537 Mt CO₂-e, including the use of international abatement sourced through the planned emissions trading scheme. Domestic emissions under the same scenario were projected to reach around 637 Mt CO₂-e.

Since the submission of the BR in 2013 there have been changes to Australia's climate change policies and measures that are in place to achieve Australia's target and an update of Australia's emissions projections.

Australia released the 2014-15 Emissions Projections in March 2015. Information contained in the projections, including assumptions, conditions and methodologies used can be found at <http://www.environment.gov.au/climate-change/emissions-projections>. These projections update Australia's expected outlook for emissions and take into account the repeal of the carbon tax.

The centrepiece of the Government's emissions reduction efforts is the \$2.55 billion Emissions Reduction Fund which commenced purchasing emissions reductions in April 2015.

The 2014-15 Projections presents a baseline scenario that is developed on the basis of current policies and measures in place. The main exception is it does not include projected abatement from the Emissions Reduction Fund under the Direct Action

Plan. The operation of the Fund is being finalised, including the detailed design of the safeguard mechanism, so it is premature at this stage to prepare long term projections inclusive of its impact. The first auction took place in April 2015, where over 47 million tonnes of abatement was contracted. The results from this auction and those to follow in the coming period will provide information to inform projections of abatement from the Emissions Reduction Fund. The appropriateness of providing estimates of the impact of the Emissions Reduction Fund on Australia's emissions will be considered for future projections, noting that release of such estimates must be considered against the objective of maximising competition in Emissions Reduction Fund auctions to obtain the most abatement possible at the least cost.

Question by New Zealand at Monday, 30 March 2015

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: Policies and measures in relation to 2020 target

What has been the impact of recent changes in Australia's policies and measures with respect to meeting its 2020 target?

Answer by Australia at Thursday, 28 May 2015

Australia is committed to its 2020 target of a 5 per cent reduction on 2000 levels by 2020. The Government's Direct Action Plan and, in particular, the Emissions Reduction Fund, are designed to help achieve this target.

The centrepiece of the Government's emissions reduction efforts is the \$2.55 billion Emissions Reduction Fund which commenced purchasing emissions abatement in April 2015. Australia's Clean Energy Regulator held the first auction under the ERF across 15-16 April, where the purchase of over 47 million tonnes of emissions abatement was contracted for. Detailed results of the auction are available here: <http://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/Emissions-Reduction-Fund/Want-to-participate-in-the-Emissions-Reduction-Fund/step2/auction-results-april-2015/Pages/Default.aspx>

A safeguard mechanism will ensure emissions abatement purchased in this way are not undone elsewhere in the Australian economy. Its final design is subject to ongoing consultation with business and will commence on 1 July 2016. Other significant policies complement the measures in place under the Emissions Reduction Fund, Renewable Energy Target, a range of energy efficiency measures and state-based renewable energy and energy efficiency schemes. The Government has also committed to develop a National Energy Productivity Plan with an

aspirational national energy productivity improvement target of up to 40 per cent by 2030.

Question by New Zealand at Monday, 30 March 2015

Category: Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: LULUCF projections

Since preparing the projections presented in the BR, Australia has elected to broaden its coverage of the land sector by including cropland management, grazing land management and revegetation activities. What impact will these changes make to Australia's emissions projections for LULUCF, on a Kyoto Protocol accounting basis, in relation to its 2020 target?

Answer by Australia at Thursday, 28 May 2015

Australia's 2013 BR recorded its intention to broaden its coverage of the land sector by including cropland management, grazing land management and revegetation activities (ref. page 3-29).

Australia has always encouraged comprehensive reporting by Parties across all sectors. Such an approach promotes accountability and environmental integrity, giving the international community the best possible picture of what the atmosphere "sees" in terms of greenhouse gas emissions, and increasing the range of mitigation options to enable the most economically efficient approach to addressing emissions.

The inclusion of the new land activities will raise accountability and will provide for the effects of changes in cultivation, pasture, grazing and fire management practices to be estimated for the first time.

Recent estimates, incorporated into Australia's emissions projections released in March 2015, indicate the additionally elected LULUCF activities of cropland management, grazing land management and revegetation contributed net emissions of 2 Mt in 2013 and will contribute net emissions of around 4.5 Mt per year over 2013-2020.

Further details on emissions projections for these activities can be found in the forthcoming land sector sectoral report on Australia's 2014-15 emissions projections, which will be available at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/climate-change/greenhouse-gas-measurement/publications>

[Question by China at Monday, 30 March 2015](#)

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: drivers of emission increase

The emission level increased by 31% in 2012, compared to that in 1990, excluding the LULUCF sector. Please provide further information regarding the major contributing sectors and corresponding regulation measures.

[Answer by Australia at Thursday, 28 May 2015](#)

As indicated in Australia's 2014 National Inventory Report for the year 2012 (section 2.3), sectors with the largest percentage increase in emissions over the 1990 to 2012 period were stationary energy (45.4%), fugitive emissions (25.2%) and industrial processes (26.5%). The Renewable Energy Target and a range of energy efficiency measures aim to reduce emissions from stationary energy. Further information on Government action taken over that period to address emissions can be found in CTF Table 3 of the Australia's Biennial Report (page 4-39).

Looking forward, the centrepiece of the Government's emissions reduction efforts is the \$2.55 billion Emissions Reduction Fund, which commenced purchasing emissions abatement in April 2015. The Fund will purchase abatement from across the economy.

[Question by China at Monday, 30 March 2015](#)

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: Market mechanism

If Australia intends to use international credits to achieve the target, please provide further information on its plan to use market based mechanisms and carry-overs.

[Answer by Australia at Thursday, 28 May 2015](#)

Australia is focusing on domestic action to meet its emission reduction target, with a Direct Action Plan that will efficiently and effectively source low-cost emissions abatement within Australia.

[Question by China at Monday, 30 March 2015](#)

[Category:](#) Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

[Type:](#) Before 31 of March

[Title:](#) LULUCF sector

The LULUCF sector accounts for a large share in the base year emissions, while emission reduction from LULUCF has been significant over the years. Considering the huge uncertainty in the accounting of LULUCF emissions, as well as that a project-based methodology was applied, how can Australia guarantee its LULUCF data comparability with other sources and countries?

[Answer by Australia at Thursday, 28 May 2015](#)

The Australian inventory is prepared in accordance with UNFCCC reporting guidelines (decision 24/CP.19) including the IPCC Guidelines for the preparation of national inventories. Australia has invested significant resources in the development of data collection systems to support LULUCF estimation systems and this is reflected in the quality of the estimates.

Australia's inventory, including all sectors, has been subject to extensive independent expert review as part of the UNFCCC/KP inventory review process. Australia's National Inventory Reports have been reviewed by UN Expert Review Teams on ten occasions, five on an in-country basis. These reviews have found Australia's inventory to be of a consistently high standard and meeting the UNFCCC inventory reporting guidelines' requirements for comparability as well as transparency, consistency, completeness and accuracy. Australia's inventory has benefitted significantly from participation in UNFCCC/KP reviews – not only because of the quality assurance that the inventory review system delivers, but also because feedback provided has led to extensive improvements in the quality of Australia's estimates. Additionally, national inventories are subject to continuous improvement processes, and the Australian government is committed to continuing its investments in its systems for LULUCF sector emission estimates in order to continue to improve the quality of estimates over time.

[Question by China at Monday, 30 March 2015](#)

[Category:](#) All emissions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

[Type:](#) Before 31 of March

[Title:](#) LULUCF sector

In ARR2014, the ERT identified issues which suggest that tier 1 QC procedures are not always appropriately implemented, especially in the LULUCF sector. In particular, the ERT identified the following: inconsistencies between the NIR and CRF summary

table 3 (e.g. N₂O emission from agricultural soils and CO₂ emissions from forest land), inconsistencies in AD between the CRF tables and the NIR (e.g. cropland remaining cropland and grassland remaining grassland), use of incorrect notation keys (e.g. Australia reports “NA” for HFC production after 1995, whereas the Party indicates that emissions from production did not occur after 1995, and reports “NO” for wetlands, settlements and other land converted to grasslands when the correct notation key should be “IE”), please clarify.

[Answer by Australia](#) at Thursday, 28 May 2015

As these issues relate to Australia’s national inventory report for the year 2012, they will be addressed – appropriately - through the procedures for the preparation and review of Australia’s National Inventory Report for the year 2013. Australia can however advise:

Inconsistencies between the NIR and CRF summary tables: in both examples a typographical error was made in the CRF table. Tier 3 was unintentionally selected in the CRF summary tables. The method for the sub-category in the agricultural soils example would be considered tier 2 while the method for the sub-category in the forest land example would be considered tier 2/3.

Use of incorrect notation keys: in both examples a typographical error was made in the CRF. In the HFC product example the correct notation is NO, while the notation for the wetlands, settlements and other land converted to grasslands examples should be IE.

[Question by China](#) at Monday, 30 March 2015

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: Agriculture

The CTF Table 3 only covers mitigation actions that are quantifiable and have already been implemented by the time this BR was compiled. What about PaMs that are adopted or planned and not quantifiable?

[Answer by Australia](#) at Thursday, 28 May 2015

These were not reported in the Biennial Report. The Australian Government will take the comments made in the Report of the technical review of the first biennial report of Australia into account when compiling the response to mitigation actions and their effects as part of its next Biennial Report.

Question by China at Monday, 30 March 2015

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: adopted or planned PaMs

The CTF Table 3 only covers mitigation actions that are quantifiable and have already been implemented by the time this BR was compiled. What about PaMs that are adopted or planned and not quantifiable?

Answer by Australia at Thursday, 28 May 2015

These were not reported in the Biennial Report. The Australian Government will take the comments made in the Report of the technical review of the first biennial report of Australia into account when compiling the response to mitigation actions and their effects as part of its next Biennial Report.

Question by China at Monday, 30 March 2015

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: Clean Energy Future Plan

Clean Energy Future Plan set out a number of PaMs to achieve the 5% emission reduction target in 2020. However, ETS and CFI, as two core elements of this plan, have been replaced by the Emission Reduction Fund (ERF). What is the expected mitigation potential of this fund? Will it be enough to compensate for what was included in ETS and CFI?

Answer by Australia at Thursday, 28 May 2015

Australia is committed to its 2020 target of a 5 per cent reduction on 2000 levels by 2020. Australia released the 2014-15 Emissions Projections in March 2015. Information contained in the projections, including assumptions, conditions and methodologies used can be found at <http://www.environment.gov.au/climate-change/emissions-projections>

The 2014–15 Projections presents a baseline scenario that is developed on the basis of current policies and measures in place. The main exception is it does not include projected abatement from the Emissions Reduction Fund under the Direct Action Plan. The operation of the Fund is being finalised, including the detailed design of the safeguards mechanism, so it is premature at this stage to prepare long term projections inclusive of its impact. The first auction took place in April 2015, where

over 47 million tonnes of abatement was contracted. The results from this auction and those to follow in the coming period will provide information to inform projections of abatement from the Emissions Reduction Fund. The appropriateness of providing estimates of the impact of the Emissions Reduction Fund on Australia's emissions will be considered for future projections, noting that release of such estimates must be considered against the objective of maximising competition in Emissions Reduction Fund auctions to obtain the most abatement possible at the least cost.

Question by China at Monday, 30 March 2015

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: progress towards the achievement of its QEWERT

In the WM scenario, the GHG emissions (incl. LULUCF) of Australia will reach 613 536ktCO₂. This equals to an increase of 10.3% and is far beyond the target of 5% reduction. How would Australia achieve its QEWERT?

Answer by Australia at Thursday, 28 May 2015

The Australian Government is firmly committed to reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions to five per cent below 2000 levels by 2020.

Since the BR there have been changes to the policies and measures in place to achieve Australia's target. The centrepiece of the Government's emissions reduction efforts is the \$2.55 billion Emissions Reduction Fund which commenced purchasing emissions reductions in April 2015. As the operation of the Fund is still being finalised, the WM scenario does not include projected abatement from the Fund.

In addition to the Emissions Reduction Fund Australia has in place a number of mitigation policies in the energy sector. These include the Renewable Energy Target, the Solar Towns programme, a range of energy efficiency measures and state-based renewable energy and energy efficiency schemes. Abatement from these initiatives are included in Australia's business as usual projections scenario.

The emissions projections used in Australia's BR were sourced from Australia's 2012 Projections. The 'With measures' scenario presented in Table 6 (a) represents the 2012 estimate of domestic emissions in 2020 on a UNFCCC classification basis.

Australia's target is based on the Kyoto Protocol classification system and is a net emissions target. Australia's 2012 Projections, reported in the NC6, estimated net emissions in 2020 at 537 Mt CO₂-e, including the use of international abatement sourced through the planned emissions trading scheme. Domestic emissions under the same scenario were projected to reach around 637 Mt CO₂-e.

Question by China at Monday, 30 March 2015

Category: Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: ambition level

The emission reduction level of -5%, -15% and -25% based on 2000 correspond to +0.9%, -9.7% and 20% (incl. LULUCF) OR +12.2%, +0.3% and -11%(excl. LULUCF), which is different from 4%, 14% and 24% provided in table 2(a). Please double check the accuracy of this information or provide detailed explanation on this figure.

Answer by Australia at Thursday, 28 May 2015

Australia's 2020 emissions reduction target is an economy-wide target. The analysis to translate the emission reduction target range from a 2000 base year to a 1990 base year (CTF Table 2(a) of the Biennial Report) is based on data from Australia's Quarterly Update of Australia's National Greenhouse Gas Inventory, December Quarter 2012 and calculated using the Kyoto Protocol classification system.

Question by China at Monday, 30 March 2015

Category: Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: market mechanisms

There is no clear evidence in the CTF regarding the use of market-based mechanisms. While figure 1 in BR clearly indicates that 5% at most of the 25% conditional target will come from the purchase of international units. Meanwhile, according to the CTF table 2(e) I, the amount of units equivalent to 100 Mt CO₂ will be used without specific requirements or restrictions. Please provide further information on this regard. In addition, 100 Mt CO₂ accounts for 18% of the total emission in 2000, far above 5%, is it possible to provide a more detailed plan regarding the use of proposed units?

Answer by Australia at Thursday, 28 May 2015

The previous government policy allowed for the use of international units. Figure 1 in Chapter 3 of Australia's NC6 stated that up to 5% of a 25% target would be met through Government purchase. This related to emissions abatement purchased directly by the Australia Government, whether sourced domestically or internationally. This figure was not intended to indicate the level of domestic

abatement to be achieved, but that the Government would make a direct contribution if the conditional target was adopted.

Since the submission of the BR there have been changes to the policies and measures in place to achieve Australia's target. The centrepiece of the Government's emissions reduction efforts is the \$2.55 billion Emissions Reduction Fund which commenced purchasing emissions abatement in April 2015.

The Carbon Tax has now been repealed and replaced with the Direct Action Plan. The Direct Action Plan will efficiently and effectively source low-cost emissions abatement within Australia.

Question by China at Monday, 30 March 2015

Category: Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: conditional target

Australia proposed a conditional target of 15% or 25% based on the level of international action. Please define the term "international action" specifically.

Answer by Australia at Thursday, 28 May 2015

Refer to information recorded in FCCC/SB/2011/INF.1/Rev.1

"Australia will reduce its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 25 per cent compared with 2000 levels by 2020 if the world agrees to an ambitious global deal capable of stabilizing levels of GHGs in the atmosphere at 450 ppm carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂ eq) or lower. Australia will unconditionally reduce its emissions by 5 per cent compared with 2000 levels by 2020 and by up to 15 per cent by 2020 if there is a global agreement which falls short of securing atmospheric stabilization at 450 ppm CO₂ eq under which major developing economies commit to substantially restraining their emissions and advanced economies take on commitments comparable to Australia's."

The Government is currently reviewing Australia's international targets.

Question by China at Monday, 30 March 2015

Category: Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: Base year

1990 is an internationally common choice for base year of 2020 targets, but Australia choose 2000 instead. Australia further indicated that the 15% and 25% conditional targets are based on the level of international action, especially from advanced economies. The 15% or 25% emission reduction targets compared to the level of 2000 can be translated to a respective reduction by -9.7% or -20% (incl. LULUCF) compared to the level of 1990, or a +0.3% emission control target or a reduction target of -11% (incl. LULUCF) compared to the level of 1990. This ambition level is far below the requirement that Australia set out for advanced economies. Please clarify the fairness of such requirements.

[Answer by Australia](#) at Thursday, 28 May 2015

Based on Australia's latest emissions projections (released March 2015), Australia's 2020 emissions reduction target is broadly equivalent in nominal terms on both a 2000 base year (5 per cent reduction) and a 1990 base year (equivalent to a 6 per cent reduction). Similarly, the 15 per cent and 25 per cent targets below 2000 levels are equivalent to 16 and 26 per cent reductions below 1990 levels. On a 2005 base, Australia's 2020 target equates to a 13 per cent reduction.

Australia's target is ambitious and comparable to other advanced economies across a range of base years and metrics such as percentage change in emissions, reductions in emissions per capita, emissions intensity and emissions from business-as-usual.

Australia is undertaking substantial policy action to meet its 2020 emissions reduction target. Under a business as usual scenario, without Australia's Emissions Reduction Fund, Australia's emissions are projected to be 17 per cent above 2000 levels in 2020 and 30 per cent above 2000 levels in 2030.

Australia's emissions projections 2014-15 show that Australia's target represents a reduction in emissions per unit of GDP of 48 per cent between 1999-2000 and 2019-2020 and a reduction in per capita emissions of 30 per cent over the same period. The Government is currently reviewing Australia's international targets.

[Question by China](#) at Monday, 30 March 2015

Category: All emissions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: NF3

NF3 is included in the 2020 target, but no information on the historical emissions of NF3 is reported in the current version of inventory. How can Australia calculate the base year of NF3 emissions?

[Answer by Australia](#) at Thursday, 28 May 2015

UNFCCC reporting guidelines did not cover NF3 at the time the biennial report or latest national inventory reports were prepared. Consequently, estimates for this gas were not included in the BR. Reporting of NF3 is only covered by UNFCCC reporting guidelines for the report to be submitted in 2015. Australia encourages comprehensive reporting by Parties and, as a consequence will include estimates for NF3 as data becomes available. Such an approach promotes environmental integrity, giving the international community the best possible picture of what the atmosphere “sees” in terms of greenhouse gas emissions, and enabling the most economically efficient approach to addressing emissions. Nonetheless, it is expected that this source will be negligible as the primary source of emissions, manufacture of certain types of electrical equipment, does not occur in Australia. Australia’s National Inventory Report for the year 2013 (NIR 2015) is available at: <http://www.environment.gov.au/climate-change/greenhouse-gas-measurement/publications#national>

[Question by China](#) at Monday, 30 March 2015

Category: All emissions and removals related to its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: recalculations

In ARR2013, the ERT pointed out that Australia did not transparently describe the recalculations performed in the industrial processing sector. Further clarifications regarding this issue is needed.

[Answer by Australia](#) at Thursday, 28 May 2015

As these issues relate to Australia’s national inventory report under the UNFCCC and its KP, they will be addressed- appropriately - through the procedures for the preparation and review of such reports. Australia can however advise:

In the ARR2013, the ERT identified issues regarding justifications for recalculations in the Industrial Processes sector. It also separately noted the long standing constraints on Australia’s ability to provide complete transparency with regard to the disaggregation of activity data given domestic legal requirements under its national mandatory reporting system (National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act, NGER Act).

Australia’s detailed responses to the ERT in regards to the recalculations issue are provided in Table A.6.5(a) in Annex 6 of Australia’s 2014 NIR submission. The issue has not been raised by the ERT in subsequent ERT reviews. With regard to the issues of transparency, Australia advised the ERT that it will continue to work to increase the transparency where possible within the legal frameworks of the NGER Act.

Details of the constraints imposed by the NGER Act are well articulated in Australia’s

National Inventory Reports (section 1.2.3 Information on the Quality Assurance/Quality Control Plan), including the particular effects on each relevant sector.

Question by Switzerland at Monday, 30 March 2015

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: Measures with a view to longer term emission reductions

What additional PaMs are taken into consideration by the Party in light of longer term requirements to substantially lower per capita GHG emissions as recommended by science and thus contribute to the collective achievement of the 2 degree warming limit?

Answer by Australia at Thursday, 28 May 2015

Australia is firmly committed to meeting its emissions reduction target of five per cent below 2000 levels by 2020.

Since the submission of the BR in 2013 there have been changes to Australia's climate change policies and measures that are in place to achieve Australia's target.

The centrepiece of the Government's emissions reduction efforts is the \$2.55 billion Emissions Reduction Fund which commenced purchasing emissions abatement in April 2015. Accompanying the Fund will be the safeguard mechanism to ensure emissions reductions purchased in this way are not undone elsewhere in the Australian economy. The final design of the mechanism is subject to ongoing consultation with business and will commence on 1 July 2016. Other significant policies complement the measures in place under the Emissions Reduction Fund including the Renewable Energy Target, a range of energy efficiency measures and state-based renewable energy and energy efficiency schemes. The Government has also committed to develop a National Energy Productivity Plan with an aspirational national energy productivity improvement target of up to 40 per cent by 2030. Australia is currently reviewing its international targets and settings for the post-2020 agreement. Australia will consider what our fair share of emissions reductions is, including a consideration of additional policies and measures. As part of this process, the Government conducted a consultation process that sought views from across the Australian community on policy options to achieve emissions reductions.

[Question by Switzerland at Monday, 30 March 2015](#)

[Category:](#) Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

[Type:](#) Before 31 of March

[Title:](#) Use of renewable energy sources

To what extent are renewable energy sources (RES) being used by the Party at present and how is the potential for replacing conventional fuels for power generation by RES estimated for 2020 and beyond? What share of RES in total national power generation is expected to be achievable by 2020 and 2030, respectively?

[Answer by Australia at Thursday, 28 May 2015](#)

Renewable energy has played and will continue to play an important and increasing role in Australia's energy future. Australia introduced the Renewable Energy Target (RET) scheme in 2001 to encourage additional generation of electricity from renewable sources, reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the electricity sector.

Since then, renewable electricity generation has almost doubled, primarily as a result of the RET scheme. By 2013, total renewable generation represented approximately 14 per cent of electricity generation in Australia with wind and hydroelectric power being the highest contributors. Over 2 million small-scale solar PV or solar/heat pump hot water systems have been installed with assistance from the RET.

The RET was reviewed in 2014 by an independent expert panel. The panel found that, given the demand for electricity is declining, the scheme is now contributing to a surplus of generation capacity rather than adding generation capacity to meet growth in electricity demand as originally intended. The Australian Government is currently negotiating with its Parliamentary colleagues on changes to the scheme to better reflect market conditions and to ensure renewable energy continues to play a role in Australia's energy mix.

The Australian Government is committed to a Renewable Energy Target that allows sustainable growth in both small and large scale renewable energy. Under the Government's proposal, over 23 per cent of Australia's electricity in 2020 would come from renewable sources.

The percentage share of renewables in 2030 will depend on a range of factors including on government policies post-2020. Australia is currently reviewing its international targets and settings for the post-2020 agreement. Australia will consider what our fair share of emissions reductions is, including a consideration of additional policies and measures.

Question by European Union at Monday, 30 March 2015

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: LULUCF contribution

"Australia's abatement task and 2013 emissions projections" document is referred in Australia's BR1 technical review report as the source of updated projections used for the review (<http://www.environment.gov.au/climate-change/publications/australias-abatementtask-and-2013-emissions-projections>). In that document, Australia announced the election of three additional LULUCF activities under the Kyoto Protocol. Further, Australia anticipates that harvesting rates in natural forest is declining so resulting in a net sink to be accounted under forest management. Could Australia provide update information on progress in achieving the quantified economy-wide emission reduction targets taking into consideration the contribution of additional elected LULUCF activities under KP, the current trend in forest harvesting and, if any technical correction to the FMRL, its impact on accounted quantities?

Answer by Australia at Thursday, 28 May 2015

Updated estimates of Australia's emissions from 1990 to 2013 are provided in Australia's 2015 National Inventory Report, while updated projections were published in the 2014-15 Emissions Projections released in March 2015. These reports incorporate the impact of previously and newly elected LULUCF activities as well as updated information since the submission of Australia's Biennial Report in 2013. It is reported in the National Inventory Report that Australia's total greenhouse gas emissions were 549.4 Mt CO₂-e in 2013. This represents a decrease of 11.3 Mt CO₂-e, or 2%, on net emissions recorded in 2000. Australia's 2020 target is to reach -5% on 2000 levels.

Recent estimates, incorporated into Australia's emissions projections released in March 2015 indicate the additionally elected LULUCF activities are an increasing net source of emissions. Cropland management, grazing land management and revegetation contributed net emissions of 2 Mt in 2013 and will contribute net emissions of around 4.5 Mt per year over 2013-2020.

The National Inventory Report also records that the FMRL has been subject to a technical correction of -3.6 Mt CO₂-e.

The National Inventory Report is available at

<http://www.environment.gov.au/climate-change/greenhouse-gas-measurement/publications#national> Australia's 2014 Emissions Projections publication is available at <http://www.environment.gov.au/climate-change/publications/emissions-projections-2014-15>

Question by European Union at Monday, 30 March 2015

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: Projections

During the review, Australia provided updated information on projections under a 2013 scenario, which did not include the mitigation effect of the new measures under the Direct Action Plan, and announced that updated projections would be released. Could Australia provide such updated information regarding its projections to 2020, including assumptions, conditions and methodologies used? Could Australia provide information regarding the estimated abatement for the period 2013-2020 of the policies under the DAP and how this differs from the estimates reported in its BR1?

Answer by Australia at Thursday, 28 May 2015

Australia released the 2014-15 Emissions Projections in March 2015. Information contained in the projections, including assumptions, conditions and methodologies used can be found at <http://www.environment.gov.au/climate-change/emissions-projections>

The 2014–15 Projections presents a baseline scenario that is developed on the basis of current policies and measures in place. The main exception is it does not include projected abatement from the Emissions Reduction Fund under the Direct Action Plan. The operation of the Fund is being finalised, including the detailed design of the safeguards mechanism, so it is premature at this stage to prepare long term projections inclusive of its impact. The first auction took place in April 2015, where over 47 million tonnes of abatement was contracted. The results from this auction and those to follow in the coming period will provide information to inform projections of abatement from the Emissions Reduction Fund. The appropriateness of providing estimates of the impact of the Emissions Reduction Fund on Australia’s emissions will be considered for future projections, noting that release of such estimates must be considered against the objective of maximising competition in Emissions Reduction Fund auctions to obtain the most abatement possible at the least cost.

Question by European Union at Monday, 30 March 2015

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: Mitigation effects of the Emissions Reduction Fund

During the review, Australia informed the ERT that the ETS, which was reported in its NC6/BR1 as the primary means by which Australia will meet its targets, has been repealed. An Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF) is now the centrepiece of the Australian Government's policy suite to reduce emissions. Could Australia provide information on the anticipated mitigation effects of the ERF for the years 2013–2020 including the mitigation potential and costs for each economic sector participating in the ERF?

Could Australia provide information on the anticipated mitigation potential of the ERF to meet the two conditional more ambitious emission reduction targets?

Answer by Australia at Thursday, 28 May 2015

Australia released the 2014-15 Emissions Projections in March 2015. Information contained in the projections, including assumptions, conditions and methodologies used can be found at <http://www.environment.gov.au/climate-change/emissions-projections>

The 2014–15 Projections presents a baseline scenario that is developed on the basis of current policies and measures in place. The main exception is it does not include projected abatement from the Emissions Reduction Fund under the Direct Action Plan. The operation of the Fund is being finalised, including the detailed design of the safeguards mechanism, so it is premature at this stage to prepare long term projections inclusive of its impact. The first auction took place in April 2015, where over 47 million tonnes of abatement was contracted

(<http://www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au/ERF/Published-information/auction-results/auction-results-april-2015>). The results from this auction and those to follow in the coming period will provide information to inform projections of abatement from the Emissions Reduction Fund. The appropriateness of providing estimates of the impact of the Emissions Reduction Fund on Australia's emissions and progress towards Australia's targets will be considered for future projections.

Question by European Union at Wednesday, 25 March 2015

Category: Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: Use of market mechanisms

Does Australia intend to use market mechanisms to achieve the targets? If yes, to which extent and what is the associated effect on the emission level projections for

the period up to 2020? Is use of international credits foreseen and if so, to what extent?

[Answer by Australia](#) at Thursday, 28 May 2015

Australia is focusing on domestic action to meet its emission reduction target, with a Direct Action Plan that will efficiently and effectively source low-cost emission abatement within Australia.

[Question by European Union](#) at Wednesday, 25 March 2015

Category: Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: Estimation of LULUCF emissions and removals

How does Australia estimate its LULUCF emissions and removals in its emission levels' projections over the period? What are the methodological approaches used and how do they impact on the assessment of the progress to the QEWERT?

[Answer by Australia](#) at Thursday, 28 May 2015

Consistent with other sectors, the LULUCF sector projections are prepared in accordance with international guidelines adopted by the UNFCCC for accounting under the Kyoto Protocol. Details on the methodological approaches used for the sector can be found in the forthcoming land sector sectoral report on Australia's 2014-15 emissions projections, which will be available at:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/climate-change/greenhouse-gas-measurement/publications>. The projections include estimates for comprehensive land sector reporting (except for drainage and re-wetting of organic soils).

[Question by European Union](#) at Wednesday, 11 March 2015

Category: Progress towards the achievement of its quantified economy-wide emission reduction target

Type: Before 31 of March

Title: Decoupling of economic growth from GHG emissions

To what extent is economic growth decoupled from GHG emissions?

What have been the main effects of the existing policies and measures on the emission trends?

What have been the main deviations from expected results and what in your view

has caused this?

[Answer by Australia](#) at Thursday, 28 May 2015

Australia's emissions per dollar of gross domestic product (GDP) have declined over the last twenty years. National inventory emissions per dollar of real GDP fell from 0.73 kg CO₂-e per dollar in 1990, compared to 0.35 kg CO₂-e per dollar in the year to September 2014, which is a decline of 52.1%. These declines have resulted from specific emissions management actions across sectors, the large decline in land use change emissions over the period, and structural changes in the economy.
