

Question by Canada at Friday, 12 April 2019

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

Type: Before 12 April

Title: Emissions target achieve

Australia's Emissions Projections 2017 reported on p.86 that Australia is on track to over-achieve its 2020 target by 166 Mt CO₂-e. However, in section 4 of the annex, the cumulative emissions in 2020 are 4354 Mt (p. 222, and table 4.1), 146 Mt lower than 4500. Can Australia offer any further clarifying information on this?

Answer by Australia, Friday, 07 June 2019

Table 4.1 in Section 4 of Australia's third Biennial Report (Annex A to Australia's 7th National Communication) reports emissions associated with Australia's emission budget for the period 2013-2020 on an annual and cumulative basis, as an indication of Australia's progress to its 2020 Quantified Economy-wide Emission Reduction Target (QEERT). Actual (2013-2015) and projected (2016-2020) emissions are reported, from Australia's National Inventory Report 2017 and Australia's Emissions Projections 2017.

Australia's Emissions Projections 2017 reports Australia's actual and projected emissions, and takes account of international units and voluntary action.

The Australian Government holds 28 Mt CO₂-e of international units from landfill operators under the voluntary Waste Industry Protocol. This is outlined in the Common Tabular Format Table 2(f) on page 221 of the third Biennial Report.

The Australian Government treats voluntary action as additional to national targets. Voluntary action results from individuals and companies offsetting their emissions to become 'carbon neutral' and households buying GreenPower (a Government accredited program for energy retailers to purchase renewable energy on behalf of customers). It is estimated that there will be 8 Mt CO₂-e of voluntary action from 2013-2020, which is not counted towards Australia's target.

These adjustments account for the 20 Mt CO₂-e difference. They are not captured in table 4.1 of the Biennial Report, which provides data on Australia's actual and projected emissions.

Question by Canada at Friday, 12 April 2019

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

Type: Before 12 April

Title: Indigenous knowledge and climate change

Does Australia take into consideration Indigenous/traditional knowledge in developing domestic policies or implementing measures to address climate change? If so, what are the key factors or benefits in doing so?

Answer by Australia, Friday, 07 June 2019

Yes. The Australian Government consults on and incorporates traditional Indigenous knowledge and practices when developing domestic policies and implementing measures to address climate change.

For example, the Australian Government's National Environmental Science Program acknowledges Indigenous land managers as important stakeholders. The Program's Earth Systems and Climate Change Hub works with Indigenous land managers to build a two-way, mutually beneficial understanding of climate change through ongoing collaboration.

Outcomes of the 2018 *National Indigenous Dialogue on Climate Change* include recommendations from Indigenous Australians to: continue the dialogue between scientific and Traditional (two-way) Knowledge of climate change; support Indigenous led projects based on two way knowledge about the risk of climate change; ensure opportunities for peer-to-peer learning between Traditional Owners as the best means of strengthening the application of their Traditional knowledge; and provide Traditional Owners the opportunity to shape engagement to represent the best value for their Indigenous communities.

Another example relates to the Emissions Reduction Fund, which incentivises businesses, households and landowners to proactively reduce their emissions. The Fund supports savanna fire management projects which avoid emissions by reducing the frequency and size of late dry season fires.

These projects directly involve traditional Indigenous fire management practices, and allow this knowledge to be transferred to younger Indigenous generations.

An Indigenous carbon industry is growing from Indigenous Australians' participation in the Emissions Reduction Fund and is providing a range of non-carbon benefits, such as an

independent revenue stream and increasing Indigenous employment.

Question by Canada at Friday, 12 April 2019

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

Type: Before 12 April

Title: Mainstreaming gender considerations into climate change policies

In its third Biennial Report, Australia describes the work being accomplished in mainstreaming gender into its climate finance programming and how it works toward implementing the Gender Action Plan by supporting training opportunities for Women Negotiators in Small Island Developing States. Could you provide more detail about the measures Australia implemented at the domestic level to mainstream gender considerations into its climate change policies?

Answer by Australia, Friday, 07 June 2019

The Australian Government is committed to ensuring that domestic and international policies are inclusive of gender considerations and provide equal opportunities for women. Australia has communicated and reinforced this commitment internationally by being a signatory to international covenants such as the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. Domestically, all bills and disallowable instruments, including any related to climate change, must be accompanied by an assessment of whether they are compatible with the rights and freedoms contained in core human rights treaties to which Australia is a party, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

Domestically, Australia's legal framework provides protections against discrimination through federal anti-discrimination legislation including the Sex Discrimination Act 1984 (Cth).

The Australian Human Rights Commission is an independent statutory authority established to conciliate complaints of discrimination and provide education to the public and advice to the Government on human rights issues. The Commission currently has a President and seven specialist Commissioners, including the Sex Discrimination Commissioner (Ms Kate Jenkins). The Sex Discrimination Commissioner's functions include promoting understanding, acceptance, and public discussion of sex and gender discrimination.

Australia has implemented national and state legislation to ensure non-discrimination, such

as the Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012 (Cth). This legislation can be called on to ensure gender inclusive policy-making at the program level. A climate change policy example is the Australian Renewable Energy Agency's Advancing Renewables Program Guidelines, which include an eligibility criterion: "You must not be named as an organisation that has not complied with the Workplace Gender Equality Act 2012 (Cth)."

National momentum towards equal opportunity means that Australia's climate policies operate in a context which both considers and implements responses to gender inequity.

[Question by](#) Canada at Friday, 12 April 2019

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

[Type:](#) Before 12 April

[Title:](#) Carry-over and cancelation of units

Australia's projections (p.236) show that it is expected to over-achieve the emissions budget for its 2020 Quantified Economy-wide Emission Reduction Target by 145 Mt CO₂-e (excluding KP1 carry-over units), or by 294 Mt CO₂-e (including carry-over). Since there is no third commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol, does Australia intend to voluntarily cancel its remaining Assigned Amount Units?

[Answer by](#) Australia, Friday, 07 June 2019

The emissions projections presented in Section 5 of Australia's third Biennial Report demonstrates that Australia is on track to surpass the emissions reductions required to meet its 2020 QEERT by 145 Mt CO₂-e. This overachievement builds on efforts in the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol – Australia surpassed the emissions reductions required to meet our first commitment period target by 128 Mt CO₂-e.

These units will remain in Australia's national registry at least until reporting against the 2020 QEERT is finalised.

[Question by](#) Canada at Friday, 12 April 2019

[Category:](#) Assumptions, conditions and methodologies related to the attainment of its quantified economy-wide

emission reduction target

Type: Before 12 April

Title: Explanations of accounting approach for each LULUCF category

Tables CTF Table 4(a)I–1 and Supplement of Australia's BR3 refer to "Other" noting that section 4.7 of the Annex to NC7 (i.e. BR3) provides more details. However, no section 4.7 were found in Australia's BR3 and no details are provided in the report to explain accounting approach used for each LULUCF category. Could Australia please explain the details of the accounting approach used for each LULUCF included in its accounting or indicate where these details are provided in its BR3?

Answer by Australia, Friday, 07 June 2019

As explained in sections 3.1, 3.2 and 4.2 of Australia's BR3, Australia reports progress towards its Cancun 2020 target using the Kyoto Protocol classification system for the LULUCF sector on a net-net accounting basis. Emissions in the reporting year are compared with estimates in the base year (2000), consistent with Australia's approach to the other inventory sectors. Section 4.2 details which LULUCF categories are covered, including any category-specific details, for example, treatment of natural disturbances and harvested wood products.

With respect to the reference in the BR3 to section 4.7, this was an inadvertent error and should have stated section 4.2.

Question by Canada at Friday, 12 April 2019

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

Type: Before 12 April

Title: Changes in national system

In 2018 Australia conducted a review of its National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Legislation. Can Australia share any outcome from this review that would impact its National Inventory System?

Answer by Australia, Friday, 07 June 2019

The Climate Change Authority, an independent statutory agency which provides expert

advice to the Australian Government on climate change policy, is required by law to review the operation of Australia's National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (NGER) legislation every five years. The Authority delivered its review report on the NGER legislation in December 2018. It concluded that the legislation is working well, meeting its objectives and enjoys broad support from industry, governments and others. It also made a number of recommendations to improve efficiency and reduce costs to government and business. The report can be found on the Authority's website.

The Australian Government is considering its response to the review's recommendations. The Australian Government's response is required to be published under the *National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007*.

[Question by](#) Canada at Friday, 12 April 2019

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

[Type:](#) Before 12 April

[Title:](#) Reporting of harvested wood products in NIR and BR

While Australia reports estimates of CO₂ from harvested wood products in its NIR CRF tables and in CTF Tables 1.2 of its BR3, it seems that HWP are not explicitly reported in the BR3 CTF table 4(a)I-I. Rather, estimates, projections and contribution from HWP are reported as "Included Elsewhere" in table CTF Table 4(a)I-1 of BR3. Could Australia clarify where the values associated to HWP have been included in table CTF Table 4(a)I-1 and the reason for not reporting them separately as in the GHG inventory?

[Answer by](#) Australia, Friday, 07 June 2019

Australia's BR3 uses the Kyoto Protocol classification system for LULUCF reporting of progress against the Quantified Economy-wide Emission Reduction Target. Under the Kyoto Protocol classification, Harvested Wood Products are included as part of Forest Management and Afforestation/Reforestation activities, instead of being reported as a separate category.

In CTF table 4(a)I-1, this means that Harvested Wood Products from Forest Management and Afforestation / Reforestation are included in the totals for Forest land remaining forest land and Land converted to forest land, respectively. Please refer to the BR section 4.2 and the table "4(a) I-1 SUPPLEMENT" for more information on the coverage of the LULUCF sector including HWP.

Question by Japan at Friday, 12 April 2019

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

Type: Before 12 April

Title: Coastal blue carbon

- What was the reason of the early start of GHG estimations about coastal wetlands under GHG inventory?
- How the result due to anthropogenic efforts is factored out from the whole changes in carbon stock changes of GHG emissions/removals in coastal wetlands?
- How the improvement of data especially activity data acquisition for Australian national GHG inventory is planned? Is this implemented as a part of "International Partnership for Blue Carbon" initiative whose purpose was announced as data improvement?

Answer by Australia, Friday, 07 June 2019

- **What was the reason of the early start of GHG estimations about coastal wetlands under GHG inventory?**

ANSWER

Australia works to ensure that the national inventory is as complete as possible, in order to maximise the scope of potential emissions abatement opportunities. Consistent with this objective, the IPCC has provided guidance covering wetlands that Australia intends to implement on a voluntary basis (as relevant to Australia's national circumstances). In implementing the *2013 Wetlands Supplement to IPCC 2006 Guidelines*, Australia has adopted a phased approach, prioritising coastal wetlands first, in light of the extensive mangrove, tidal marsh and seagrass habitat existing around our coastline and to inform the development and quantification of policy actions to protect and strengthen the carbon content of these habitats.

- **How the result due to anthropogenic efforts is factored out from the whole changes in carbon stock changes of GHG emissions/removals in coastal wetlands?**

ANSWER

Consistent with the 2013 Wetlands Supplement guidance, Australia's approach is to identify and report on the key anthropogenic activities that impact on emissions and removals. Australia applies a gain-loss rather than stock-change method to estimate the net emissions

associated with these activities.

- How the improvement of data especially activity data acquisition for Australian national GHG inventory is planned? Is this implemented as a part of "International Partnership for Blue Carbon" initiative whose purpose was announced as data improvement?

ANSWER

Australia works to continuously improve the scope and quality of our activity data for wetlands, and to utilise the latest data and information flowing from empirical research into carbon processes in wetlands to inform enhancements to our estimation methodologies. Areas of focus for the coming inventory cycles will include harnessing advances in remote sensing technologies to better detect human-induced vegetation cover changes in mangrove forests and tidal marshes. We will also continue to use the latest spatial data on carbon pools to improve our tier 2 estimation methods, with a view to incorporating our tier 2 models into our Full Carbon Accounting Model (FullCAM) as spatially explicit tier 3 models (see section 3.3.4 of Australia's BR3 for further information on FullCAM).

While our planned improvements are not specifically implemented as part of the International Partnership for Blue Carbon, we value the opportunities provided through this forum to contribute our knowledge and experiences while learning from the progress made by our colleagues in the Partnership countries, and scientific partners.

Question by Japan at Friday, 12 April 2019

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

Type: Before 12 April

Title: Institutional arrangements and preparation process of BR and NC

Could you please tell us the following matters regarding the BR/NC preparation system and process in Australia to use it as a reference for the improvement of Japan's system?

- Preparation system and role allocation between the relevant organizations: Was the text of BR3/NC7 prepared by a single organization? Or was the text of each chapter prepared by different organizations? How do you consider and decide the writing policy throughout the BR3/NC7 such as how Australia improve the contents in response to the recommendations and encouragements from the Expert review team? Could you please let us know the concrete BR/NC preparation system and process in Australia?

- Preparation schedule : Could you tell us the concrete steps and timeline when preparing BR3/NC7?

The text of BR3/NC7 was prepared by Department of the Environment and Energy (DoEE) with input from other organisations.

The process included:

- A DoEE project team of 3 people to manage the project.
- A DoEE lead author for each chapter to manage input from other areas in DoEE and external organisations (other Australian Government Departments, and state and territory government departments). Chapter leads were selected from teams with responsibility for policies outlined in their chapter.
- Chapter 7: *Financial Resources and Technology Cooperation* was written by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, which has policy responsibility for this program.
- The DoEE project team edited draft chapters to ensure consistency of style, wrote the Executive Summary and collated a draft document to ensure a comprehensive response was prepared.
- DoEE chapter leads sent the draft document to all contributors (other areas in DoEE and external organisations) for final comment. Sending the whole document provided agencies with the broad context in which to understand their individual chapters.

The project team supported chapter leads by providing:

- a style guide and chapter templates.
- the UNFCCC Expert Review Team's recommendations outlined in the Report on the technical review of Australia's previous report to better address the completeness and transparency criteria. Recommendations for each chapter were considered and actioned by chapter leads.

Preparation schedule - project timeline:

- the project commenced in March 2017 for a December 2017 delivery.
- a timeline with milestones was prepared to guide the project and ensure it was completed by the submission date.
- milestones included: first draft of chapters; draft chapters distributed for input; editing of chapters; clearance of draft report; draft report distributed for final comment; graphic design; proofreading; final clearance; submission.

Question by Turkey at Thursday, 11 April 2019

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

Type: Before 12 April

Title: Emission reduction target of 5 per cent

What is considered to be the biggest challenge by now to attain Australia's unconditionally set emission reduction target of 5 per cent compared with 2000 levels by 2020?

[Based on the information given in Paragraph 20 & Table 2 of the FCCC/TRR.3/AUS]

Answer by Australia, Friday, 07 June 2019

Australia is on track to meet its 2020 emission reduction target with its suite of existing policies and measures, addressing emissions across the economy.

Australia's main climate change policies are the Emissions Reduction Fund and its Safeguard Mechanism, the Renewable Energy Target, the National Energy Productivity Plan, the Australian Renewable Energy Agency and the Clean Energy Finance Corporation.

- The Emissions Reduction Fund supports Australian businesses, farmers and land managers to take practical actions to reduce emissions and store carbon.
- The Safeguard Mechanism places emissions limits, called baselines, on facilities which emit more than 100,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent each year.
- The Renewable Energy Target is designed to encourage the additional generation of electricity from renewable sources and reduce emissions of greenhouse gases in the electricity sector.
- The scheme is expected to lift the share of renewables to over 23 per cent of Australia's electricity generation in 2020.
- The National Energy Productivity Plan aims for a 40 per cent improvement in energy productivity over 2015 to 2030 through energy market reforms and energy efficiency measures
- The Australian Renewable Energy Agency makes renewable energy solutions more affordable and increases the amount of renewable energy used in Australia.

- The Clean Energy Finance Corporation co-invests with the private sector to increase the flow of funds into renewable energy, energy efficiency and low emissions technologies.

Question by Turkey at Thursday, 11 April 2019

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

Type: Before 12 April

Title: National inventory arrangements

By fulfilling its overall responsibility relating to Australia's national inventory arrangements, which challenges does the Australian Department of the Environment and Energy meet?

[Based on the information given in Paragraph 10 of the document FCCC/TRR.3/AUS]

Answer by Australia, Friday, 07 June 2019

The Australian Government centralised Australia's national inventory arrangements in a single agency, the Department of the Environment and Energy, in accordance with decision 19/CMP, Annex 1, para 10(c) to "designate a single national entity with overall responsibility for the national inventory". This approach enables Australia to better coordinate activity data collection, emissions estimation, quality control, improvement planning, preparation of reports, and submission of reports to the UNFCCC on behalf of the Australian Government.

Question by European Union at Thursday, 11 April 2019

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

Type: Before 12 April

Title: Long term strategy

Australian Government has announced it will develop an economy-wide emissions reduction strategy for 2050 by 2020. *Has Australia estimated the timeline for achieving climate neutrality, i.e. a balance between anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases? In that context has Australia analysed the potential scale for the developing the LULUCF sector sink?*

Answer by Australia, Friday, 07 June 2019

Australia supports the goals of the Paris Agreement, including the commitment to achieve a balance between anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases in the second half of the century.

As stated in the Australian Government's 2017 Review of Climate Change Policies, the Australian Government has committed to developing a Long-term Emissions Reduction Strategy by the end of 2020.

Question by European Union at Thursday, 11 April 2019

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

Type: Before 12 April

Title: 2030 commitment

Australia has committed to implementing an economy-wide target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 26 to 28 per cent below 2005 levels based on its greenhouse gas inventory by 2030 under the Paris Agreement. On the basis of reported projections with existing policies and measures it is not on track to meet this commitment.

Could Australia indicate whether existing policies not yet included in projections will be sufficient, or further policies will be introduced to meet the 2030 target?

Answer by Australia, Friday, 07 June 2019

The Australian Government is committed to meeting its 2030 emissions reduction target. In 2017, the Government undertook a review of policies to achieve our emissions reduction targets and concluded that our current policy suite, with some adjustments, provides the right approach. It is flexible, scalable and promotes economic growth.

On 25 February 2019, the Australian Government announced the Climate Solutions Package, a \$3.5 billion investment to deliver on Australia's 2030 Paris climate commitments.

- The Climate Solutions Package will deliver around 200 million tonnes of greenhouse gas abatement to 2030.

- These measures were not included in the third biennial report or Australia's 2018 projections.

The package includes:

- a \$2 billion Climate Solutions Fund that will continue investing in low-cost abatement through the Emissions Reduction Fund
- investing in projects that will boost pumped hydro storage potential and support more clean energy in the electricity grid
- measures to help households and businesses improve energy efficiency and lower their energy costs
- developing a National Electric Vehicle Strategy to ensure a planned and managed transition to new vehicle technology and infrastructure.

More information can be found at <https://www.environment.gov.au/climate-change/climate-solutions-package>.

As stated in the Australian Government's 2017 Review of Climate Change Policies, the Australian Government will also conduct domestic policy 'review and refine' cycles aligned with the five-yearly review process under the Paris Agreement. This approach will provide for integrated consideration of domestic policy and international targets, and provide guidance for industry about future policy review processes.

Question by European Union at Thursday, 11 April 2019

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

Type: Before 12 April

Title: LULUCF sector potential

Australia has a remarkable decrease in emissions from the LULUCF sector since 2000, and is projected to achieve an 96,3% reduction between 2000 and 2020. An important driver of reductions in net emissions from the land sector has been declining annual areas of conversion of primary forest to other land uses including for agriculture, mining and settlements. In recent years, land converted to forest has also increased.

Does Australia expect this trend to continue and have you estimated the potential for developing the LULUCF sink in view of the 2030 commitments?

In February 2019 the Australian Government established a Climate Solutions Fund to provide an additional AU\$2 billion to continue purchasing low-cost abatement, build on the success of the Emissions Reduction Fund and contribute to Australia's 2030 emissions reduction target.

The LULUCF sector has been the most significant contributor to the 193 million tonnes of contracted abatement through the Emissions Reduction Fund (as at December 2018). The additional funding ensures Australian farmers, businesses and Indigenous communities continue to have opportunities to undertake emissions reduction projects that provide local benefits.

Question by European Union at Thursday, 11 April 2019

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

Type: Before 12 April

Title: Convention commitment

Australia committed to reducing 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 CO₂ eq or lower. Australia also committed to unconditionally reduce its emissions by 5 per cent compared with 2000 levels by 2020 and by up to 15 per cent by 2020.

Australia has since its original communication clarified that it intends to use a budget approach between 2013-2020 for its commitment under the Convention, not starting from real emissions in 2010 but the KP first commitment period target, and that it intends to use carry-over credit to meet the budget QERT.

What is the emission budget over 2013-2020 corresponding to Australia's upper end of the unconditional target, i.e. 15% reductions compared to 2000 level?

What would be the difference in the 2013-2020 budget if 2010 real emissions were taken as a starting point?

According to the inventory and projections, net emissions of Australia will grow during the period 2013-2020. Australia is also increasing coal mining, in particular for export.

Does Australia consider its emission profile to be on a structural path of decrease in line with its commitments?

How does Australia see the sustainability of their fossil fuel export sector development in the context of Paris Agreement objectives?

Answer by Australia, Friday, 07 June 2019

Australia committed to reducing 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 CO₂ eq or lower. Australia also committed to unconditionally reduce its emissions by 5 per cent compared with 2000 levels by 2020 and by up to 15 per cent by 2020.

Australia has since its original communication clarified that it intends to use a budget approach between 2013-2020 for its commitment under the Convention, not starting from real emissions in 2010 but the KP first commitment period target, and that it intends to use carry-over credit to meet the budget QERT.

What is the emission budget over 2013-2020 corresponding to Australia's upper end of the unconditional target, i.e. 15% reductions compared to 2000 level?

What would be the difference in the 2013-2020 budget if 2010 real emissions were taken as a starting point?

ANSWER

In 2015 the Government reconfirmed Australia's unconditional 2020 target to reduce emissions by 5 per cent compared to 2000 levels.

Australia applies a consistent approach between constructing the Quantified Economy-Wide Emission Reduction Target (QEERT) under the UNFCCC (the 2020 target) and the Quantified Emissions Limitation or Reduction Objectives (QELRO) under the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol.

The method for constructing the QELRO and therefore the QEERT was based on a methodology outlined in the 2011 UNFCCC Secretariat technical paper (FCCC/TP/2010/3/Rev.1) on issues relating to the transformation of pledges for emission reductions into QELROs.

Australia's submission under the Kyoto Protocol: Quantified Emission Limitation or Reduction Objective (QELRO) can be found here:

<https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2012/awg17/eng/misc01a02.pdf>.

According to the inventory and projections, net emissions of Australia will grow during the period 2013-2020. Australia is also increasing coal mining, in particular for export.

Does Australia consider its emission profile to be on a structural path of decrease in line with its commitments?

How does Australia see the sustainability of their fossil fuel export sector development in the context of Paris Agreement objectives?

ANSWER

Australia's national emissions peaked in 2007. Despite strong economic and population growth, the emissions intensity of the Australian economy is on track to decline by 41 percent between 2000 and 2020, and is projected to decline by a further 22 per cent between 2020 and 2030. Emissions per capita are also expected to decline by 38 per cent from 2005 to 2030, without the additional Climate Solutions Package measures announced in early 2019.

The decoupling of economic growth from GHG emissions has been progressing steadily since 1990.

Australia's electricity generation mix has also changed over the 2013-2020 period. The Renewable Energy Target will see renewable energy grow to about 23.5 per cent of Australia's renewable energy mix by 2020.

Emissions and removals from fossil fuel exports are fully compliant with our Paris Agreement commitments. Australia estimates greenhouse gas emissions consistently with the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, and we account towards our emissions reduction targets on the basis of our inventory.

Greenhouse gas emissions and removals from fossil fuel exports are estimated according to the principles and methodologies of the 2006 Guidelines, including the principle that an inventory consists of emissions and removals from within national territory. All relevant emissions and removals are captured in our accounts.

Question by China at Wednesday, 10 April 2019

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

Type: Before 12 April

Title: projection

According to the WEM projection reported in its BR3, the GHG emission (with LULUCF) in 2030 will be only about 6% lower than that of 2005, so could Australia briefly introduce the accounting methods to be applied for its 2030 targets of 26~28% emission reduction comparing with 2005 level?

Answer by Australia, Friday, 07 June 2019

Section 5.2 of the NC7 explains that Australia uses an emissions budget approach over the period 2021 to 2030 to assess progress towards its 2030 target (see also Australia's Emissions Projections 2018). This means that Australia's achievement of its target is a function of emissions in the period 2021-2030, rather than in the final year of 2030. Australia will use a net-net approach to accounting for all sectors for its 2030 target.

In 2019, the Government announced the Climate Solutions Package, a \$3.5 billion investment to deliver on Australia's 2030 Paris climate commitments. The Climate Solutions Package is estimated to achieve about 200 million tonnes in emissions reduction to 2030, through measures not included in Australia's Third Biennial Report.

Question by China at Wednesday, 10 April 2019

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

Type: Before 12 April

Title: transportation

According to the WEM projections reported in BR3, there will be significant increase in transportation GHG emission in Australia. What measures will Australia take to reduce or limit the transportation GHG emission in the future?

Answer by Australia, Friday, 07 June 2019

The Government is supporting low and zero emissions transport options in a number of ways.

The Australian Government is developing a National Electric Vehicle Strategy. The Strategy will ensure the transition to electric vehicle technology and infrastructure is planned and managed. The Strategy will build on the Government's existing support for low emission vehicles. This includes:

- The Australian Renewable Energy Agency (which provides support to bring promising renewable energy technologies towards commercialisation) is contributing \$6 million to roll out Australia's first ultra-rapid charging network for electric vehicles powered by renewable energy.
- The Clean Energy Finance Corporation (which provides asset finance at favourable rates) has made up to \$1.1 billion available to assist uptake of low and zero emissions vehicles.
- Application of the luxury car tax at a higher threshold for fuel efficient vehicles compared to other vehicles. The 2018-19 threshold for fuel efficient vehicles is \$9,195 higher than for other vehicles. At a luxury car tax rate of 33 per cent, this effectively translates to a tax saving of around \$3,000.
- The Australian Government's Green Vehicle Guide website, and mandatory fuel consumption and carbon dioxide emission labels, help consumers identify and choose more fuel efficient vehicles.

The Australian Government is taking action to bring our fuel quality in line with international standards:

- Petrol quality will be improved by lowering the aromatic content starting in 2022 and lowering the sulfur limits starting in 2027.
- The 2027 implementation date for lower sulfur limits allows for the necessary lead time for scheduled refinery upgrades and provides certainty for business investment decisions. The date does not preclude the earlier availability of low sulfur fuel in the market.

These new fuel standards are a step towards supporting more advanced engine technology with lower greenhouse and noxious emissions.

Beyond the light vehicles sector:

- the Safeguard Mechanism, which places emissions limits on high emitting facilities, puts regulated limits on the emissions of large transport facilities that emit more than 100,000 tonnes CO₂-e each year (mostly rail freight, domestic aviation and shipping).
- The Emissions Reduction Fund, which incentivises businesses, households and landowners to proactively reduce their emissions, provides incentives to reduce the emissions intensity of land and sea transport activity.

The Council of Australian Governments Energy Council, which coordinates energy policy between different levels of government, has commissioned a National Hydrogen Strategy, led by Australia's Chief Scientist, Dr Alan Finkel AO, to be delivered by the end of 2019.

- The strategy will include consideration of the role of hydrogen in transport, including scoping potential for building hydrogen refuelling stations in every state and territory.

Subnational governments (state, territory and local) and private industry are supporting reduced transport emissions by investing in electric vehicle charging infrastructure, trialling alternative fuels in public transport, and exploring actions like parking privileges, registration discounts and fleet targets for low and zero emission vehicles.



[Question by China](#) at Wednesday, 10 April 2019

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

[Type:](#) Before 12 April

[Title:](#) budget approach

As described in its BRs, Australia will take a budget approach for the accounting of its 2020 target, and the starting point for calculating the budget is 2010 and 108% of 1990 emission level. It is noticed that the 108% of 1990 emission level is significant higher than the actual emission level in 2010 and 2013. Could Australia explain the reasons for this arrangement, including why not choose 2013 level as the starting point, why not use actual emission level of 2010 or 2013?

[Answer by Australia](#), Friday, 07 June 2019

Australia chose 2010 as an appropriate starting point for its emissions budget for its 2020 target as it was mid-way through the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, and reflects Australia's level of ambition for that commitment. Setting the budget in this manner provides continuity between the 2013-2020 budget to the previous budget period (2008-

2012).

The method for constructing the QELRO and therefore the QEERT was based on a methodology outlined in the 2011 UNFCCC Secretariat technical paper (FCCC/TP/2010/3/Rev.1) on issues relating to the transformation of pledges for emission reductions into QELROs.

Australia applies a consistent approach between constructing the QEERT under the UNFCCC (the 2020 target) and the QELRO under the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol.

Australia's submission under the Kyoto Protocol: Quantified Emission Limitation or Reduction Objective (QELRO) can be found here:
<https://unfccc.int/resource/docs/2012/awg17/eng/misc01a02.pdf>.

Question by China at Wednesday, 10 April 2019

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

Type: Before 12 April

Title: LULUCF subsector

Could Australia list the sub-classifications under KP LULUCF sector that have been excluded in its 2020 QEERT and explain the reasons for those exclusions? How Australia consider to ensure the comparability between its QEERT and those of other developed country Parties?

Answer by Australia, Friday, 07 June 2019

Australia reports under all mandatory KP LULUCF categories in its 2020 QEERT. In addition, Australia has elected to report under the voluntary Grazing Land Management, Cropland Management and Revegetation KP LULUCF categories. Australia did not elect to report under the voluntary Wetland Drainage and Rewetting category because insufficient data was available at this time.

From a land sector perspective, consistent with other Parties, Australia adopted the KP LULUCF classification framework for its 2020 QEERT. As set out in section 4.2 of the BR3,

Australia worked hard to ensure that approach can also be reconciled with the UNFCCC LULUCF classification framework.

[Question by China](#) at Wednesday, 10 April 2019

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

[Type:](#) Before 12 April

[Title:](#) conditional target

Australia has committed conditional targets of 15 or 25% emission reduction by 2020 comparing with 2000 level. Has Australia evaluated the continuing application of the conditions associated with its conditional targets? And Has Australia developed any plan to enhance its pre-2020 ambition?

[Answer by Australia](#), Friday, 07 June 2019

Australia's unconditional 2020 target (a five per cent reduction on 2000 emission levels by 2020) was confirmed in 2015.

The substantial policy action Australia is undertaking to meet its targets is working. Australia over-achieved on its Kyoto Protocol first commitment period target by 128 Mt CO₂-e, and is projected to overachieve on its 2020 QEERT by 166 Mt CO₂-e.

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