



Additional comments from Ms Zali Steggall OAM MP

- 1.1 I would like to thank the Member for Clark, Andrew Wilkie MP, for introducing this Bill and the debate it has generated.
- 1.2 The National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (Transparency in Carbon Accounting) Bill 2020 (the Bill) seeks to amend the *National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007* (NGER Act) to ‘ensure transparency and accountability in the way the Australian Government reports carbon emissions.’¹
- 1.3 To achieve this aim, the Bill seeks to amend the reporting requirements of greenhouse gas emissions to include scope 3 emissions (which are indirect greenhouse gas emissions arising as a consequence of the activities of a facility), requires the Minister to table Australia's national greenhouse gas inventory estimates in Parliament every 3 months and provides for the publication of the estimates by the Clean Energy Regulator instead of the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources.
- 1.4 I support the remarks made in the Committee’s Advisory Report. I agree that at this time, measuring scope 3 emissions is likely to be costly, complicated and may result in inaccurate estimates. However, given the value shown by evidence presented to the Committee, in particular evidence from the Australia Institute, Australian Centre for Corporate Responsibility and Doctors for the Environment, there should be further consideration of the Bill and measurement of scope 3 in general as circumstances and methodologies evolve.

1 Explanatory Memorandum, National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (Transparency in Carbon Emissions Accounting) Bill 2020, p. 1.

- 1.5 The Committee learned that Scope 3 emissions are significant in general because scope 3 emissions dwarf scope 1 and 2 emissions by up to forty times at a company level in some cases.² At a country level, evidence presented to the Committee estimated that scope 3 emissions associated with Australian fossil fuel exports could be up to 5 per cent of global emissions.³
- 1.6 Inquiry participants provided evidence that measuring scope 3 emissions is a growing practice in top Australian companies.⁴ The fact that Australian companies are measuring emissions means it is a material consideration in their business operations, decision making, for their shareholders, and must, therefore, be of inherent value.
- 1.7 Uniformity in the measurement of scope 3, is something that will benefit investors, shareholders, communities and businesses.
- 1.8 The Committee also heard evidence from individuals and stakeholder groups as to the value of scope 3 for informing the public.⁵ The public should know the true extent of Australia's impact on global emissions. Demand for this knowledge will grow as society becomes more concerned about climate impacts.
- 1.9 Regarding the second portion of the bill, that the Minister table the quarterly greenhouse gas estimates in the House 15 days after publication and that the release of the data is handed to the Regulator (formerly under the Department). The Committee received evidence that the release of the estimates currently happened on average 46 days after they are required to be released by Senate order.
- 1.10 It is essential that the public remain informed as to Australia's emissions and progress towards Paris Targets. I support the measures in the second portion of the Bill which would hand the co-ordination of the data to the Clean Energy Regulator.

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Committee Member

2 The Australia Institute, *Submission 9*, p. 7.

3 The Australia Institute, *Submission 9*, p. 7.

4 Australasian Centre for Corporate Responsibility, *Submission 8*, p. 2.

5 Dr Elizabeth Bashford, National Committee Member, Doctors for Environment, *Committee Hansard*, Canberra, 1 May 2020, p. 11.