



PARLIAMENT
OF AUSTRALIA

HEARING PROGRAM

Budget Estimates 2025–26

Environment and Communications Legislation Committee

*Thursday 27 March, Monday 31 March, Tuesday 1 April and
Friday 4 April 2025

Committee Room 2S3, Parliament House, Canberra

** Dates for the 2025-26 Budget estimates hearings are pursuant to the resolution of the Senate of 25 March 2025.*

Times listed are indicative only



Hearing location

Committee Room 2S3,
Parliament House, Canberra
Waiting room: Committee Room 1S4



Broadcasts of proceedings

Television channel 111
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Committee rooms

Committee Room 2S3: (02) 6277 5853
Committee Room 1S4: (02) 6277 5847

Questions on notice

Questions from Senators due: Wednesday 16 April 2025
Answers due from Departments: Thursday 29 May 2025



Committee members

Senator Karen Grogan, Chair
Senator Sarah Hanson-Young, Deputy Chair
Senator Catryna Bilyk
Senator Ross Cadell
Senator Lisa Darmanin
Senator Leah Blyth

Ministers attending

Senator the Hon Tim Ayres
Senator the Hon Jenny McAllister

Secretariat

Stephen Palethorpe, Committee Secretary
James Blair, Estimates Officer

Thursday, 27 March

Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

9.00am	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water Corporate matters and general questions
9.30am	Outcome 1: Support the transition of Australia's economy to net-zero emissions by 2050; transition energy to support net zero while maintaining security, reliability and affordability; support actions to promote adaptation and strengthen resilience of Australia's economy, society and environment; and take a leadership role internationally in responding to climate change. Program 1.1: Reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions
10.30am	Emissions Reduction Assurance Committee
10.45am	Morning tea
11.00am	Outcome 1: Continued Program 1.2: Support reliable, secure and affordable energy
12.00pm	Australian Renewable Energy Agency
12.30pm	Australian Energy Regulator
1.00pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Outcome 2: Conserve, protect and sustainably manage our natural resources including through a nature positive approach; protect and conserve our natural and cultural heritage; reduce and regulate the use of pollutants and hazardous substances; and take a leadership role on these issues internationally. Program 2.1: Conserve, protect and sustainably manage Australia's environment through a nature positive approach, including the Office of the Threatened Species Commissioner
3.00pm	Director of National Parks
3.15pm	Bureau of Meteorology

3.45pm	Outcome 2: Continued Program 2.2: Protect Australia's cultural, historic and First Nations heritage
4.30pm	Afternoon tea
4.45pm	Outcome 2: Continued Program 2.3: Accelerate the transition to a circular economy, while safely managing pollutants and hazardous substances.
5.15pm	Outcome 3: Advance Australia's environmental, scientific, strategic and economic interests in the Antarctic region by protecting, researching and administering in the region, including through international engagement. Program 3.1: Contribute to Australia's national Antarctic interests through science, environmental management and international engagement, including delivering Australia's scientific research and operations in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean
5.45pm	Outcome 4: Improve the health of rivers and wetlands and enhance the sustainable, efficient and productive use of Australia's water resources. Program 4.1 - Protect, restore and sustainably manage Australia's water resources, including: Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder and Commonwealth Environmental Water Office Murray-Darling Basin Authority (via videoconference) National Water Grid Authority

Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts, excluding Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development

6.15pm	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts Corporate matters and general questions
6.45pm	Outcome 5: Promote an innovative and competitive communications sector, through policy development, advice and program delivery, so all Australians can realise the full potential of digital technologies and communications services. Program 5.1 – Digital Technologies and Communications Services
7.15pm	Dinner
8.15pm	Outcome 5: continued
9.15pm	NBN Co Limited (via videoconference)
9.45pm	Evening tea

10.00pm	<p>Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts</p> <p>Outcome 6: Participation in, and access to, Australia’s arts and culture through developing and supporting cultural expression</p> <p>Program 6.1 – Arts and Cultural Development</p>
10.30pm	<p>Creative Australia</p>
11.00pm	<p>Adjournment</p>

Monday, 31 March

Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water

9.00am	Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water Corporate matters and general questions
9.30am	Outcome 1: Support the transition of Australia's economy to net-zero emissions by 2050; transition energy to support net zero while maintaining security, reliability and affordability; support actions to promote adaptation and strengthen resilience of Australia's economy, society and environment; and take a leadership role internationally in responding to climate change. Program 1.1: Reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions
10.30pm	Climate Change Authority
10.45am	Morning tea
11.00am	Outcome 1: Continued Program 1.2: Support reliable, secure and affordable energy
12.30pm	Clean Energy Finance Corporation
1.15pm	Lunch
2.15pm	Clean Energy Regulator
2.30pm	Snowy Hydro Limited
3.45pm	Afternoon tea

<p>4.00pm</p>	<p>Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water</p> <p>Outcome 2: Conserve, protect and sustainably manage our natural resources including through a nature positive approach; protect and conserve our natural and cultural heritage; reduce and regulate the use of pollutants and hazardous substances; and take a leadership role on these issues internationally.</p> <p>Program 2.1: Conserve, protect and sustainably manage Australia's environment through a nature positive approach, including the Office of the Threatened Species Commissioner</p>
<p>5.30pm</p>	<p>Threatened Species Scientific Committee (via videoconference)</p>
<p>5.45pm</p>	<p>Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority (via videoconference)</p>
<p>6.15pm</p>	<p>Adjournment</p>

Tuesday, 1 April

Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts, excluding Infrastructure, Transport and Regional Development

9.00am	Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts Corporate matters and general questions
9.30am	Outcome 5: Promote an innovative and competitive communications sector, through policy development, advice and program delivery, so all Australians can realise the full potential of digital technologies and communications services. Program 5.1 – Digital Technologies and Communications Services
10.45am	Morning tea
11.00am	Australian Broadcasting Corporation
12.30pm	Special Broadcasting Service Corporation (via videoconference)
1.00pm	Lunch
2.00pm	Australian Communications and Media Authority
3.00pm	Office of the eSafety Commissioner
4.00pm	Afternoon tea
4.15pm	Australian Postal Corporation
5.15pm	Classification Board

6.00pm	<p>Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts</p> <p>Outcome 6: Participation in, and access to, Australia’s arts and culture through developing and supporting cultural expression</p> <p>Program 6.1 – Arts and Cultural Development</p>
6.30pm	Adjournment