

Opening Statement
2024-25 Additional Estimates
February 2025

- Thank you, Chair.
- I am Martin Hehir, Deputy Secretary of Governance and Corporate Group and Chief Operating Officer in the Department.
- The members of the PM&C's Executive in attendance for this session to answer your questions include:
 - Nadine Williams, Deputy Secretary, Economy, Industry and Resilience;
 - Graham Fletcher, Deputy Secretary, International and Security; and
 - I would like to introduce Mr Blair Exell as the new Deputy Secretary for the Social Policy Group within PM&C.
As Mr Exell only recently joined the Department, Ms Lee Steel, First Assistant Secretary, Intergovernmental Relations and Reform, will lead on questions related to the Social Policy Group, with support from other First Assistant Secretaries in the Group.
- The Department also has other senior officials here to assist the Committee. A detailed list of witnesses attending has been provided to the Committee Secretariat.
- Officers from the Office for Women and Australian Government Consulting will be appearing tomorrow.
- I have PM&C's organisation chart here for the Committee should you wish it to be tabled.

- Since the last round of Estimates hearings in November last year, there have been the following changes to the PM&C Executive:
 - Former Deputy Secretary, Social Policy Group, Liz Hefren-Webb left the Department on 17 January to take up the position of Aged Care Quality and Safety Commissioner.
- There have also been the following changes to PM&C's structure since the Department last appeared before the Committee:
 - The Net Zero Economy Agency officially transitioned to an independent Commonwealth entity, the Net Zero Economy Authority, on 11 December 2024. David Shankey was appointed as the inaugural CEO of the Authority on 29 November 2024.
 - The Jenkins Report Implementation Team concluded on 31 December 2024.