

Standing Committee on the Environment and Energy

Answers to questions on notice

Agriculture, Water and the Environment Portfolio

Committee: Standing Committee on the Environment and Energy

Inquiry: Climate Change (National Framework for Adaptation and Mitigation) Bill 2020 and Climate Change (National Framework for Adaptation and Mitigation) (Consequential and Transitional Provisions) Bill 2020

Question No: 1

Hearing Date: 29 January 2021

Division/Agency: Climate Adaptation and Resilience Division (CARD)

Topic: Written questions on notice

Question Date: 17 February 2021

Question Type: Written

The Standing Committee on the Environment and Energy asked:

1. As part of the current adaptation planning process the Department undertakes, what is the economic/environmental analysis of the impact of temperature warming scenarios of 1.5, 2 and 3+ degrees of warming?
2. As part of the works for the 2015 National Climate Resilience and Adaptation Strategy, does the Department track progress towards measurable adaptation targets?
3. Does the Department currently consider climate change risk and how does it manage those risks in its operations?

Answer:

1. The climate projections available from the website [Climate Change in Australia](#), co-produced by the CSIRO and the Bureau of Meteorology, provide the basis for analyses of environmental impacts at a range of warming levels.

In recent years ABARES has undertaken research examining the effects of climate change on the Australian broadacre farming industry. This includes work examining recent historical trends (changes in climate since 2000 relative to the longer historical record) which were published by ABARES in late 2019 (see [here](#)), and more recent analysis considering a range of future climate projection scenarios for 2050. Preliminary results from these future scenarios will be presented at ABARES 2021 Outlook conference in March 2021.

2. No. As part of our requirements under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Australia submits National Communications (every 4 years) and Biennial Reports (every two years) to the UNFCCC which include details on Australia's climate change policies and measures. These reports are an important aspect of the transparency system under the UNFCCC and undergo technical international review.

Australia's seventh National Communication on Climate Change and Fourth Biennial Report were submitted to the UNFCCC in December 2017 and December 2019 respectively. These reports include information on climate adaptation and science. Australia's eighth National Communication and Fifth Biennial Report are due to be submitted by 31 December 2022.

3. Yes. Both the former department of Environment and Energy and the former Department of Agriculture conducted *Climate Compass* scans in 2018.

- *Climate Compass* is the agreed Australian Government framework for APS officers to identify and take action to manage climate risks and opportunities.

The department is stepping up its efforts to manage the climate change risks to its policies, programs, assets and services. On 24 November 2020, the Executive Board agreed to identify the department's priority climate risks and opportunities and implement a management strategy.

- A departmental Climate Resilience Committee has been established to oversee the delivery of these outputs. The Committee consists of Senior Executive members from across the department's functions.