

BCA

Business Council of Australia

11 October 2022

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Environment and Communications
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Committee Secretary

The Business Council of Australia has taken strong position on the need to tackle climate change.

In 2021 we released the 'Achieving a net zero economy' report, which supported the adoption of a net zero target by 2050 and called for an ambitious but achievable 2030 emissions reduction target. We are on the record in supporting the Government's now legislated 43 per cent emissions reductions target by 2030.

As argued in our recent report, better coordination of existing climate policies and agencies is the best way to move forward and make progress towards meeting our emissions reduction targets — including reforming the Safeguard Mechanism to reduce emissions in the industrial sector. It is important that policy is consistent, to provide business certainty to invest so we can achieve the net zero emissions target. Just as important, it must be targeted and effective.

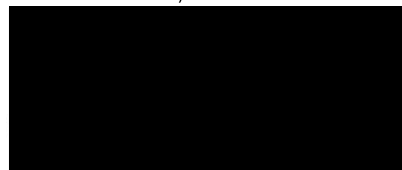
For this reason, we do not support the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Amendment (Climate Trigger) Bill 2022* currently being considered by the Committee.

The EPBC Act has been the subject of a substantial independent review undertaken by Professor Graeme Samuel, finalised in October 2020 and released last year. The Review examined the arguments for a Climate Trigger. It found that "*specific mechanisms, not the EPBC Act, are the appropriate way to place limits on greenhouse gas emissions*".

The Samuel Review makes clear that the EPBC Act needs reform if it is to be fit for purpose in protecting the environment, biodiversity, and heritage. The Business Council, along with many other stakeholders, are engaging in good faith with the Government in this process which is currently underway.

Adding a Climate Trigger into the EPBC Act will only serve to further complicate and frustrate much needed EPBC Act reforms. Doing so also risks diverting resources and attention from the protection and restoration of the physical environment and matters of national environmental significance, to focus on an issue that is being separately addressed through other more considered means.

Yours sincerely



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