

Minister for Climate Change and Energy

Senate Question No. 1365

Senator Waters asked the Minister representing the Minister for Climate Change and Energy on 25 January 2023:

1. How many created Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs) are currently held by the Australian Government; please provide a breakdown by the methodologies in which these ACCUs were generated.
2. How many ACCUs are contracted for delivery by 2030 to the Australian Government; please provide a breakdown by the methodologies in which these ACCUs were generated.
3. How many ACCUs are currently held and circulating (ie unacquitted) in the private market and available to be used by facilities liable under the safeguard mechanism; please provide a breakdown by the methodologies in which these ACCUs were generated.
4. Please provide a breakdown of methodology source for the 2.6 million ACCUs that were freed up through the fixed delivery Emissions Reduction Fund arrangement.
5. What is the total amount of projects and ACCU delivery that is contracted to occur (to either government or private market) until 2030 under current human induced regeneration, avoided deforestation and landfill gas methods; please provide an itemised breakdown for these three methods.

Senator Wong: The Minister for Climate Change and Energy has provided the following answer to the Senator's question:

1. As at 23 February 2023, the Australian Government held 94,549 Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs). These ACCUs were generated under energy efficiency, vegetation and waste methodology determinations.
2. As at 9 February 2023, 119.6 million ACCUs are contracted for delivery by 2030 to the government. This includes 24.2 million ACCUs scheduled for delivery under optional delivery contracts, which give sellers the right but not the obligation to deliver ACCUs to the Commonwealth. At the opening of the second pilot exit window, there were also up to 3.2 million ACCUs under fixed contracts that could use the exit arrangement to sell ACCUs to the private market rather than deliver them to the government.

The fixed delivery contracts allow ACCUs acquired in the private market or from the scheme participants own ACCU holdings from any method to be used to meet contractual obligations. In other words, deliveries to the Australian Government to meet fixed delivery contracts can be made from any eligible project under a method. As such, it is not possible to provide a breakdown of ACCUs contracted for delivery by the method in which the ACCUs were generated. A breakdown of ACCUs issued to date by method is at Table 1.

3. There are currently 23.7 million ACCUs held in the Australian National Registry of Emissions Units (ANREU). Private ACCU holdings can be used for a range of purposes, including delivery to government contracts or for private voluntary or compliance purposes. The government does not have visibility of these arrangements. As such, it is

not possible to say how many ACCUs are available to be used by facilities with compliance obligations under the Safeguard Mechanism.

Table 1 – ACCU holdings by method

Method Family	Method	ANREU Holdings
Agriculture	Animal Effluent Management Methodology Determination	0.07m
	Beef Cattle Herd Management Methodology Determination	0.18m
	Destruction of Methane from Piggeries Methodology Determination	0.19m
	Sequestering Carbon in Soils in Grazing Systems Methodology Determination	0.00m ¹
Energy Efficiency	Commercial and Public Lighting Methodology Determination	0.09m
	Industrial and Commercial Emissions Reduction Methodology Determination	0.01m
	Industrial Electricity and Fuel Efficiency Methodology Determination	0.61m
Industrial Fugitives	Coal Mine Waste Gas Methodology Determination	0.59m
Savanna Burning	Savanna Fire Management Methodology Determination	3.14m
Transport	Land and Sea Transport Methodology Determination	0.06m
Vegetation	Avoided Clearing of Native Regrowth Methodology Determination	0.14m
	Avoided Deforestation Methodology Determination	1.47m
	Designated Verified Carbon Standard Projects Methodology Determination	0.04m
	Plantation Forestry Methodology Determination	0.10m
	Human-Induced Regeneration of a Permanent Even-Aged Native Forest Methodology Determination	8.54m
	Measurement Based Methods for New Farm Forestry Plantations Methodology Determination	0.31m
	Native Forest from Managed Regrowth Methodology Determination	0.21m
	Reforestation and Afforestation Methodology Determination	1.19m
Waste	Alternative Waste Treatment Methodology Determination	0.79m
	Domestic, Commercial and Industrial Wastewater Methodology Determination	0.05m
	Landfill Gas Methodology Determination	5.86m
	Source Separated Organic Waste Methodology Determination	0.00m ¹
Total		23.66m

¹ Individual methods with holdings below 0.005 million have been rounded to zero.

- It is not possible to provide a breakdown for the 2.6 million ACCUs that were freed up through the exit arrangements for fixed delivery contracts as deliveries to fixed delivery contracts can be made from any project.

5. It is not possible to provide the total amount of projects and ACCU delivery that is contracted to occur for individual methods as deliveries to fixed delivery contracts can be made from any project. The government does not have visibility of the volume of ACCU deliveries that are contracted to occur to the private market.