

Climate Change Bill 2022 and Climate Change (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2022

Two bills regarding climate change and emissions reduction were recently introduced to Parliament. They are the Climate Change Bill 2022, and the Climate Change (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2022.

The bills would codify Australia's 2030 and 2050 greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets, provide for an annual statement in relation to the targets, embed the targets in the objectives and functions of relevant Commonwealth agencies, and empower the Climate Change Authority to provide advice to the Minister in relation to future targets. More detailed information about each Bill is set out below.

At the time of writing, both bills currently sit before the House of Representatives and are likely to pass through soon. On 28 July 2022 the Senate referred the Climate Change Bill 2022 and the Climate Change (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2022 to the Environment and Communications Legislation Committee for inquiry and report by 31 August 2022. The NFF will provide a submission to the Committee outlining the NFF's response to both Bills. The submission closing date is yet to be decided.

Climate Change Bill 2022

"A Bill for an Act to set out Australia's GHG emissions reduction targets, to provide for annual climate change statements, to confer advisory functions on the Climate Change Authority, and for related purposes."

Climate Change (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2022

"A Bill for an Act to deal with consequential matters arising from the enactment of the *Climate Change Act 2022*, and for other purposes."

In respect of the Climate Change (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2022 which includes (14 in total) broad definitions and objects which will be amended.

- The Climate Change Authority Legislation
- Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA)

- Building Energy Efficiency Act
- Carbon Farming Initiative
- Clean Energy Regulator (CER)
- Clean Energy Finance Corporation
- Export Finance and Investment Act
- Greenhouse and Energy Minimum Standards Act
- Infrastructure Australia Act
- National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act (safeguard mechanism)
- Northern Australia Infrastructure Facility (NAIF)
- Offshore Electricity Infrastructure Act
- Renewable Energy and Electricity Act
- CSIRO

National Farmers' Federation Response

The National Farmers' Federation (NFF) have provided a submission to the Senate Environment and Communications Legislative Committee inquiry into the Climate Change Bill 2022 and the Climate Change (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2022.

The NFF supports an economy-wide aspiration of net zero emissions by 2050 provided that:

- there are identifiable and economically viable pathways to net neutrality, including impacts from inputs such as energy; and
- Commonwealth and State legislation is effective, equitable and advantageous to deliver on ground programs that benefit agricultural interests and do not provide unnecessary regulatory impediment.

While the NFF do not formally have a position on a 2030 target, we note several constituents do have their own aspirations for emissions reductions in the coming years. These include:

- Meat and Livestock Australia (MLA) have a carbon neutral by 2030 policy.
- Dairy Australia has a target of reducing GHG emissions intensity across the dairy industry by 30% by 2030.
- GrainGrowers have a target of 15% percent reduction in grains emission intensity by 2030.

The NFF would also like to note that economy wide net zero does not mean net zero for every sector nor net zero for every individual in every sector. Nor does it mean zero for each gas, this is especially the case for the agriculture sector where we need to balance the need to provide sustainable food and fibre with the need to meet climate change ambition.

We note the statement in the Powering Australia ALP Policy Platform:

“In agriculture, Powering Australia will focus on the development and commercialisation of emissions-reducing livestock feed and improve carbon farming opportunities.”

The NFF looks forward to collaborating with government to progress this initiative.

It is our very clear view that these Bills provide neither an additional burden on agriculture nor especially require any adjustment to livestock numbers or cropping hectares to meet these targets. For more information, please find link to the NFF's policy on the [Climate Change policy](#).