

Industry, Infrastructure and Environment

Key issues:

Issue
1. Captain Cook 250 th Anniversary
2. Drought
3. Energy
4. Waste and Recycling

1. Captain Cook 250th Anniversary

Key Points

- The Australian Government is funding a \$55.15 million package of measures to mark the 250th anniversary of Captain Cook's first Pacific voyage, including:
 - \$6.7 million to the Australian National Maritime Museum to support the HMB *Endeavour* replica to circumnavigate Australia, departing Sydney in February 2020.
 - \$25 million for the Kamay Botany Bay National Park upgrade. \$3 million for a commemorative installation at the site of meeting between Aboriginal Australians and Cook's crew of the HMB *Endeavour* in 1770.
- Announcing the circumnavigation, the Prime Minister, the Hon Scott Morrison MP, said (media release at Attachment A).
 - *"As the 250th anniversary nears we want to help Australians better understand Captain Cook's historic voyage and its legacy for exploration, science and reconciliation."*
- At the launch of the *Encounters 2020* program on 21 September, the Minister for Indigenous Australians, the Hon Ken Wyatt MP said:
 - *"Discussions about our history will go a long way towards healing and reconciliation. It is also an opportunity for Indigenous Australians to reflect on the meaning of the anniversary events to them, and celebrate the resilience of their culture... As one of the world's oldest continuous cultures, we have a lot to be proud of as a nation. There are many stories to tell and in doing so this helps deepen understanding, bringing us together."*

Prime Minister
Joint Media Release, 22 January 2019

Minister for Indigenous Australians
Encounters 2020 Speech, 21 August 2019

- Questions on activities to mark the Cook anniversary should be directed to the Department of Communications and the Arts.
- Questions on the Kamay Botany Bay National Park upgrade, including the commemorative installation, should be directed to the Department of the Environment and Energy.

PM&C's Role

- The Department holds regular discussions with relevant agencies including the Department of Communications and the Arts and the Department of the Environment and Energy (Kamay Project).
- As required, PM&C provides briefing to the Prime Minister on issues relating to the Government's activities to mark the anniversary. We do not disclose the content of those briefings.


Kamay 2020 Project Board

- The Department supports Assistant Minister Morton as the Commonwealth's representative on the Kamay 2020 Project Board.

s47B, s47E(d)



s47E(d), s47F



- Questions regarding the Kamay 2020 Project Board should be directed to the Department of the Environment and Energy.

Background

s47C, s47E(d)



Circumnavigation by the HMB *Endeavour* replica

The replica HMB *Endeavour* will depart Sydney on 24 February 2020, stopping at 38 locations around Australia, concluding in Sydney on 2 May 2021. It is not a re-enactment as Cook only travelled along Australia's east coast.

Kamay Botany Bay National Park upgrade

The Kurnell Peninsula Headland (now in Kamay Botany Bay National Park) was the site of the first recorded meeting between Aboriginal people and the British in 1770.

The \$50 million upgrade of the National Park (co-funded with NSW) will include:

- \$3 million for a new commemorative installation,
- implementation of Stage 1 of the Kurnell Precinct Master Plan to upgrade visitor, transport, educational and commemorative infrastructure, and
- other capital works to be completed by 2022.

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s22	Industry, Science and Communications Branch	s22	
Consultation	DoCA, DoEE		

Honouring Captain James Cook's Voyage

22 January 2019

Joint Media Release between the Prime Minister, Minister for Communications and the Arts, Member for Leichardt

The Morrison Government is backing communities across the country to mark the 250th anniversary of Captain James Cook's first voyage to Australia and the Pacific.

In addition to \$5.45 million to support projects for the Cooktown 2020 Festival, the Morrison Government will provide \$6.7 million to the Australian National Maritime Museum so its replica of Captain Cook's HMB Endeavour can circumnavigate the country, hosting a series of events and activities at each of its proposed 39 stops.

The circumnavigation will be funded from the Government's existing \$48.7 million package to mark the anniversary that includes exhibitions through the National Library of Australia, support for the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies to preserve and celebrate Indigenous culture and assistance for the NSW Government to deliver the Kamay Botany Bay National Park Master Plan.

Prime Minister Scott Morrison said the events would offer new generations an insight into Captain Cook, the Endeavour and the experiences of Indigenous Australians.

"As the 250th anniversary nears we want to help Australians better understand Captain Cook's historic voyage and its legacy for exploration, science and reconciliation," the Prime Minister said.

"That voyage is the reason Australia is what it is today and it's important we take the opportunity to reflect on it.

"From Far North Queensland and the Cooktown 2020 Festival across to Bunbury and down to Hobart, our Government will ensure Australians young and old can see firsthand the legacy of Captain Cook and the voyage of the Endeavour."

The Morrison Government's \$5.45 million investment in projects for the Cooktown 2020 Festival includes development of the Reconciliation Rocks Precinct, the Botanic Gardens and upgrades to the Gamaay Dreaming Track to not only commemorate the anniversary and local Indigenous culture, but provide a lasting economic contribution to Cooktown. It will also support the Waymburr Milbi project to house artefacts used for the annual re-enactment of the story of Australia's first act of reconciliation told by the Guugu Yimithirr people on the banks of the Endeavour River.

LNP Member for Leichardt Warren Entsch said the investment ahead of the Cooktown 2020 Festival would ensure the local region was a focal point for the 250th anniversary events.

"Our region has an incredible connection to Captain Cook's voyage and we want the rest of Australia to hear our stories," Mr Entsch said.

"Our Government has listened to Cooktown and we're delivering.

“This investment will help drive tourism for Cooktown and Far North Queensland. We’re bringing people from across the country to Cooktown not just to experience the Festival and hear our history, but to enjoy the local area’s incredible natural attractions and hospitality.”

Minister for the Arts Mitch Fifield said the Government’s investment in the replica Endeavour’s circumnavigation would be managed sensitively, and will present both the view from the ship and the view from the shore of Cook’s historic voyage.

“The HMB Endeavour replica will set sail from Sydney in March 2020, and head south to Hobart before turning north to commence a full circumnavigation of mainland Australia,” Minister Fifield said.

“The final itinerary, including the nature of HMB Endeavour’s replica visit to each of the proposed locations (anchorage, berth or sail by) and the associated dates, will be announced in the first half of this year following community consultations by the Australian National Maritime Museum.

“The voyage will provide many opportunities for Australians to see the HMB Endeavour replica, either at one of the ports it visits or when it anchors or passes by.”

Construction of the Australian-built replica commenced in 1988 and since undertaking its maiden voyage in 1994 the vessel has enabled hundreds of thousands of visitors to experience how Captain Cook and his shipmates lived.

The HMB Endeavour replica is expected to make the following stops:

- Northern Territory – Darwin, Yirrakala
- New South Wales – Botany Bay, Coffs Harbour, Eden, Jervis Bay, Newcastle, Sydney
- Queensland – Aurukun, Brisbane, Cairns, Cooktown, Gladstone, Hamilton Island, Lizard Island, Mackay, Possession Island, Seventeen Seventy, Thursday Island, Townsville, Weipa, Yarrabah
- South Australia – Port Adelaide, Port Lincoln, Port Pirie, Whyalla
- Tasmania – Hobart
- Victoria – Geelong, Melbourne, Portland, Williamstown
- Western Australia – Albany, Broome, Bunbury, Carnarvon, Esperance, Fremantle, Geraldton, Port Hedland

The Australian National Maritime Museum will host a series of events and activities at each stop the HMB Endeavour replica makes throughout its March 2020 to May 2021 voyage.

2. Drought

Key Points

- The Australian Government is committed to supporting farmers and regional communities to get through this drought and build their preparedness and resilience to future droughts. (A list of drought-response measures is at Attachment A.)
 - *“Supporting drought affected communities remains our Government’s most urgent priority.”*

Prime Minister’s Statement
Media Release on 27 September 2019

- The Government is constantly monitoring drought conditions and evaluating and reviewing its drought programs, to ensure the right support is provided to farmers and regional communities.
 - Questions on the Government’s drought support measures should be referred to the Department of Agriculture.
- The Minister for Water Resources, Drought, Rural Finance, Natural Disaster and Emergency Management, the Hon David Littleproud MP, is developing a long-term drought strategy.
 - Further questions on the long-term drought resilience and preparedness strategy should be directed to the Department of Agriculture.

Moyne Shire and the Extension of the Drought Communities Programme

- The Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Cities and Regional Development issued a statement on 1 October 2019, confirming the 13 Local Government Areas announced on 27 September are eligible, including the Moyne Shire in Victoria.
- Further questions on the Drought Communities Programme should be referred to the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Cities

and Regional Development.

ANAO Audit into the Government's Drought Measures

- The Auditor-General for Australia is an independent officer of the Parliament, and has complete discretion in the performance or exercise of the functions or power.
- The Auditor-General is not subject to direction from anyone in relation to whether or not a particular audit is to be conducted, the way in which an audit is conducted, or the priority given to particular matters.

Special Envoy for Drought Assistance and Recovery

- The Prime Minister announced the appointment of the Hon Barnaby Joyce MP as the Special Envoy for Drought Assistance and Recovery on 26 August 2018.
- His role was to listen to drought-affected communities in order to feedback a deeper picture of the human and economic impact of the drought.

s47C, s47E(d)



Coordinator-General for Drought and the Joint Agency Drought Taskforce

- On 19 August 2018, the former Prime Minister, the Hon Malcolm Turnbull, announced Major General Stephen Day, DSC, AM, as the Coordinator-General for Drought.

- Prime Minister Morrison subsequently broadened the Coordinator-General's role.
- The Coordinator-General led and coordinate the Government's comprehensive drought response, and was integral to providing meaningful and rapid support to those in need.
- The Joint Agency Drought Taskforce officially concluded on 28 June 2019.
- The Coordinator-General for Drought finished his official duties on 15 July 2019. Drought-affected farmers and communities continue to be represented by Minister Littleproud.

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s22	Infrastructure, Population, Agriculture and Regional Development	s22	
Consultation	Department of Agriculture		

s47C, s47E(d)



Correspondence from Minister McKenzie and Littleproud to the President of the Senate, Relating to the Motion to Produce Drought-Related Documents



Senator the Hon Bridget McKenzie
Deputy Leader of The Nationals
Minister for Agriculture
Senator for Victoria

Ref: MS19-001349

Senator the Hon. Scott Ryan
President of the Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr President *Scott*

This letter relates to the motion of 16 September 2019 to the Prime Minister, the Hon. Scott Morrison MP, moved by Senator Sterle, ordering the production of documents relating to the Coordinator-General for Drought, Major General Stephen Day's, DSC, AM report to government with advice on a long-term strategy for drought preparedness and resilience. The Hon. David Littleproud, MP, Minister for Water Resources, Drought, Rural Finance, Natural Disaster and Emergency Management, has responded as he is the minister responsible for Drought.

On behalf of Minister Littleproud, please find enclosed a letter responding to the Order for the Production of Documents for tabling at your discretion.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bridget McKenzie', written over a circular scribble.

Bridget McKenzie

Enc.



The Hon. David Littleproud MP

**Minister for Water Resources, Drought, Rural Finance,
Natural Disaster and Emergency Management
Federal Member for Maranoa**

Ref: MS19-001350

Senator the Hon. Scott Ryan
President of the Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr President 

I refer to the motion of 16 September 2019 moved by Senator Sterle ordering the production of documents for the final reports by the Coordinator-General for Drought, Major General Stephen Day's, DSC, AM and Special Envoy for Drought Assistance and Recovery.

The Australian Government is very concerned about the deteriorating drought conditions facing many farmers and communities around the country. The short-term outlook is not good, with rainfall deficiencies and warmer than average temperatures forecast for much of Australia over the next three months.

Major General Day's final report is subject to the deliberations of Cabinet and as such may not be released. The government's considerations will address Major General Day's advice along with other short-term and long-term options to support drought-affected farmers and communities and to build drought preparedness and resilience. The Government may release Major General Day's final report at a later date

The request for the former Special Envoy for Drought Assistance and Recovery's Report cannot be complied with as he did not prepare a final report and as such there are no document exists.

Yours sincerely



DAVID LITTLEPROUD MP

3. Energy

Key Points

Gas

- On 6 August 2019, the Government announced three additional measures to ensure Australian gas users have access to sufficient gas at an affordable price:
 - Bring forward the 2020 review of the Australian Domestic Gas Security Mechanism (ADGSM) to this year;
 - Consider options to establish a national gas reservation scheme, applicable to future gas projects; and
 - Increase transparency and supply in the gas market by continuing reforms through the COAG Energy Council and extending the ACCC Gas Inquiry to 2025.
- Media Release at Attachment A.

Gas prices

- The Government is working with agencies, including the ACCC, to ensure gas users pay a fair price for gas.
- Bringing on additional gas supplies will put downward pressure on prices. That is why we need to ensure states and territories continue to develop their gas resources.
- Extending the ACCC Gas Inquiry to 2025, and implementing the transparency measures through the Council of Australian Governments Energy Council will ensure Australians maintain confidence in the gas market.

Establishing a national gas reservation scheme

- Onshore gas resources are managed by state and territory governments.

- The Government encourages and supports governments to develop a sustainable resource development agenda, ensuring there are sufficient gas supplies to meet demand.

Big stick legislation

- The Government's fair deal on energy plan is lowering power prices, supporting Australian households struggling with the cost of living, and backing small businesses so they can take advantage of new opportunities and employ more people.
- A key part of the plan is stopping price gouging by the big energy companies. The big stick legislation will ensure energy companies play by the rules in the retail market and pass on savings to consumers.
- If the ACCC finds companies engaged in misconduct, a graduated series of remedies allows for action proportional to the offence.
- We reintroduced the big stick legislation, the *Treasury Laws Amendment (Prohibiting Energy Market Misconduct) Bill 2019*, into Parliament on 18 September 2019. It is currently before the Senate Economics Legislation Committee.

Changes to the Bill

- Treasury is best placed to answer detailed questions about the content of the Bill.
- The changes from the previously lapsed Bill include delayed commencement until six months after Royal Assent and a number of amendments to clarify its scope and application.

Liddell Taskforce

- The Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction announced the Liddell Taskforce on 9 August 2019.
- The Taskforce includes representatives from the Commonwealth Department of the Environment and Energy, and the NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment.

- The Taskforce will look at all potential impacts of Liddell's closure, options for extensions or like-for-like replacement, and ensuring affordable and reliable energy for NSW families and businesses.
- Media Release at [Attachment B](#).

Background

Unlocking Gas Supply, Prime Minister Transcript 9News, 1 August 2019

"The thing we can't lose sight of is you need more reliable base energy supply into the market," Mr Morrison told Nine News on Thursday night.

"Now that isn't just keeping our existing large generators open for longer, it's also about getting more gas into the system.

"And this is why I'm so frustrated. The Commonwealth does not control how much gas is allowed to come out of the ground. That's decided by the states.

"NSW, Victoria, I want to see those bans go and I want to see that gas come out from under people's feet.

Gas Measures Announcement, 6 August 2019

ADGSM review

- The introduction of the ADGSM, along with a number of gas market reforms and transparency measures, has been successful in easing market pressures.
- Prices have moderated since the highs of 2017 and new deals are being struck with manufacturers. However, the market remains tight and there's more to be done.
- The Government has brought forward a review of the ADGSM. The review is being undertaken by the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science.

Consider options for a prospective national gas reservation scheme

- Past gas project approval decisions have contributed to the current constraints on the domestic gas market.
- Separate reservation policies operate in Western Australia, and Queensland.
- This measure will examine whether a reservation scheme could succeed and be applied at the national level. It would involve working cooperatively with the States and Territories.
- The establishment of any such a scheme should coincide with State and Territory governments removing unwarranted restrictions on gas developments.

- This is complex discussion. Work is expected to commence soon and be completed by February 2021.
- Should agreement not be reached with the states, the Australian Government will look to develop its own policies to ensure future gas export proposals provide sufficient gas into the domestic market.


Market transparency and pipeline reforms

- The Government is working to increase transparency and supply in the gas market, including:
 - progressing reforms through the COAG Energy Council requiring improved transparency from gas producers and LNG exporters on prices, reserves and resources, and a comprehensive review of pipeline regulation.

Big stick legislation

Amendments made to the Bill since the original lapsed

- Commencement of Schedule 1 of the Bill would now be six months after Royal Assent. Previously this Schedule was to commence the day after Royal Assent.
- Schedule 1 contains the major elements of the Bill and Schedule 2 covers Australian Energy Regulator information gathering.
- The interaction with other legislation has been clarified. The retail prohibition now explicitly does not apply to default or standing offers (as these are already regulated), nor does it require a pricing adjustment where this would breach another law.
- In the new Bill a ‘no Treasurer action’ notice will not be published, and is instead given to the corporation. This ensures that, where the corporation resolves the issue with the ACCC, it will be up to the corporation to determine whether they publicly disclose the outcome of the process.
- When a contracting order is published, the publication now only includes the fact the order has been made and the name of the corporation. This protects commercially sensitive details, while ensuring the order still acts as a deterrent.
- Individual liability for penalties is now more clearly limited to senior staff, such as company directors and senior executives.
- The Hon Bob Katter MP’s amendment preventing divestiture orders against government businesses from resulting in privatisation has been incorporated.

Helen Wilson First Assistant Secretary	Industry, Infrastructure and Environment Division	02 6271 5362	s22 
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§22	Environment, Energy, Climate Change and Indigenous Affairs Branch	§22	
Consultation	Treasury		

Gas Measures Media Release

6 August 2019

Government acts to deliver affordable, reliable gas

The Liberal-National Government will help secure gas supplies, put downward pressure on prices and encourage new investment in gas supplies. The measures we announce today will help to protect Australian industry and jobs.

Since the Liberal-National Government outlined new measures to protect Australia's domestic gas supplies in early 2017, the spot price of gas in eastern Australia has fallen by more than 25 per cent and gas contract offers have fallen by up to 50 per cent.

The Government has established an ongoing role for the ACCC to monitor gas market behaviour and reformed gas pipeline regulations to increase competition and make it easier and cheaper to transport gas around the gas market.

Both the Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) have found that the Government's actions have been effective in placing downward pressure on gas price offers and increasing domestic gas supplies.

The Government's new measures build on these previous actions to ultimately support cheaper energy and reliable gas supplies for Australian manufacturing and Australian jobs.

First, the Government will bring forward the scheduled review of the Australian Domestic Gas Security Mechanism (ADGSM) to this year. A review was scheduled for next year but given major changes in global gas markets over the past 6 months, the government has decided to bring this review forward.

The review will assess if the ADGSM is still fit for purpose to deliver a functional domestic gas market with the lowest possible prices for consumers while ensuring strong investment in new gas production. It will specifically investigate the ongoing appropriateness of the ADGSM's Total Market Security Obligation arrangements. Since the ADGSM was established, the ACCC has developed a "netback" gas price series and it is timely to clarify how this and other gas price information contributes to the Government's decisions on wider gas policy. The review will be carried out by the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science and be completed by the end of September.

Second, the Government will consider options to establish a prospective national gas reservation scheme.

Past approvals of large gas export projects have not adequately considered the impact on the domestic gas market and that has contributed to some of the pressures we have seen in recent years. We cannot afford to repeat these past mistakes.

This is an opportunity to examine whether a reservation scheme could succeed and be applied at the national level. In considering the establishment of a gas reservation scheme, the Government will work cooperatively with the States and Territories. The establishment of any such a scheme should coincide with State and Territory governments removing unwarranted restrictions on gas developments. The Government will seek to conclude its consideration of options by February 2021. Should agreement not be reached with the states, the Government will look to develop its own policies to ensure future gas export proposals provide sufficient gas into the domestic market.

Third, we will increase transparency and supply in the gas market. This includes continuing reforms through the COAG Energy Council requiring improved transparency from gas producers and LNG exporters on prices, reserves and resources, and a comprehensive review of pipeline regulation.

Consultation on these reforms will occur over August and September.

The Government will also work to improve supply through further action by:

- Extending the ACCC's role in monitoring and publishing data on the gas market in Australia until December 2025
- Engaging with LNG plants to explore whether some of their processes could be electrified, to free up more gas for domestic use;
- Engaging with the manufacturing sector to explore opportunities to lower gas costs and reduce demand through increased energy efficiency and electrification measures;
- Considering the feasibility of establishing mechanisms to facilitate collective bargaining and improve the negotiating position of large industrial users for gas supply; and
- Seeking COAG Energy Council agreement to task the Australian Energy Market Commission with advising on further steps that could be taken to accelerate the establishment of a more liquid wholesale gas market.

These new measures will reinforce existing Government action including:

- The Prime Minister's renewal of an agreement with east-coast LNG exporters to ensure domestic gas supplies in September 2018;
- An \$8.4 million commitment to accelerate the development of the Beetaloo Basin, announced in the April 2019 Budget, including a feasibility study to fast-track production for domestic use;
- Reform of gas pipeline regulation led through the COAG Energy Council, and
- Introduction of the Australian Domestic Gas Security Mechanism in July 2017

Minister for Resources and Northern Australia Matt Canavan said the measures would help create a stable domestic environment for the gas sector to grow, creating more jobs and wealth for Australians.

“Gas extraction has been one of the largest contributors to value-added growth in the mining industry in recent years because of growing export volumes. We want to see that success continue but it must return greater dividends to Australians,” Minister Canavan said.

“We are the world’s largest LNG exporter, with our gas exports growing 22 per cent to reach 70 million tonnes between 2017 and 2018 and potentially hitting 81 million tonnes in 2020-21.

“While we are proud that Australian gas powers industry around the world, we must also be able to reliably and affordably harness gas to grow our own industries and create more Australian jobs.

“Price and supply are inextricably linked. To put downward pressure on prices and shore up supply, we need more exploration and production. For too long we’ve seen some State and Territory governments shelve onshore gas exploration for political purposes and the price we’ve paid is restricted supply and price creep. The plan outlined today tackles that and a host of other issues from all directions.”

Minister for Energy and Emissions Reduction Angus Taylor said gas powered generation would be increasingly important in balancing the National Electricity Market as more intermittent renewable energy sources enter the market.

“The reliable, secure and efficient supply of both gas and electricity requires the delivery of enough gas, at an affordable price,” Mr Taylor said.

“The measures announced today recognise we need a comprehensive plan across the gas supply chain which deals with production, prices and market transparency.

“But State and Territory governments must do their part by freeing up supply and supporting investment through the removal of bans on gas exploration. I encourage all State and Territory governments to take this action, and to work with the Australian Government to consider a national gas reservation scheme and further COAG Energy Council action on gas market reform.

“The Liberal-National Government is focused on delivering Australian households and businesses a fair deal on energy, unlocking gas production and keeping our economy strong.”

Liddell Taskforce Media Release

9 August 2019

The Morrison Government, with the Berejiklian Government, has today announced the establishment of a Commonwealth-led taskforce to consider options to deal with AGL's announced closure of the Liddell Power Station in NSW in 2023.

The Liddell Taskforce will look at all potential impacts of Liddell's closure, options for extensions or like-for-like replacement, and ensure affordable and reliable energy for NSW families and businesses.

AGL's decision to extend operations at the Liddell Power Station until April 2023 is a good short-term announcement.

The extension will ease tightness in supply over the next three summers, however the Morrison Government remains focused on the real challenge of ensuring enough reliable affordable generation to meet demand post 2023.

The Morrison and Berejiklian Governments are acting to ensure there is no repeat of the impact on the National Electricity Market following the premature closure of the Hazelwood Power Station in Victoria.

The closure of Hazelwood saw a significant increase in power prices and has greatly impacted the Victorian energy grid and the National Electricity Market more broadly.

Following the formal establishment of the taskforce within the Commonwealth Department of Environment and Energy one of the first steps was to invite the Berejiklian Government to participate.

Liddell has played an important role in maintaining the reliability of electricity supply in NSW for over 40 years, and it is important for governments to work together constructively on future energy supply and security.

The Liddell Taskforce will engage with a range of industry stakeholders and work with all levels of government, with a report and recommendations expected to be delivered by late 2019.

The Liddell Taskforce is part of the Morrison Government's continued commitment to improve the affordability, reliability and security of Australia's energy systems.

4. Waste and Recycling

Key Points

- The Australian Government is committed to a cleaner environment and one of the most practical areas we can work together with states and territories, with business and with the community is dealing with our waste.
- *“It’s our waste and it’s our responsibility... We do not want to see it [waste] go into our waterways and we’ll do everything that is in our remit to achieve that goal.”*

Prime Minister
COAG Meeting, 9 August 2019

- *“We have got to get a capable recycling industry that can produce materials out of recycling that can be used elsewhere in the economy... [Australians] have to be confident that when you put the stuff in the bin it’s not going to end up in landfill or end up on a beach in Indonesia.”*

Prime Minister
The Guardian: ‘Scott Morrison to push premiers to improve 'appalling' record on plastic recycling’, 8 August 2019

- At COAG in August, the Prime Minister announced Australia would establish a timeline to ban exports of waste plastic, paper, glass and tyres, while building Australia’s capacity to generate high value recycled commodities and associated demand.
- COAG asked Environment Ministers to advise on a proposed timetable and response strategy, following consultation with industry and other stakeholders.
 - Leaders agreed the strategy must seek to reduce waste, especially plastics, decrease the amount of waste going to landfill and maximise the capability of our waste management and recycling sector to collect, recycle, reuse, convert and recover waste.
 - The ban will have environmental and economic benefits through an expanded recycling industry and associated jobs.

- The Government is investing \$167 million in an Australian Recycling Investment Plan that includes:
 - \$100 million Australian Recycling Investment Fund through the Clean Energy Finance Corporation to support the manufacture of lower emissions and energy efficient recycled content products.
 - \$20 million through a special round of the Cooperative Research Centres Projects (to find new and innovative solutions to plastic recycling and waste).
 - \$20 million for a Product Stewardship Investment Fund to accelerate work on new recycling schemes (e.g. batteries, electronics, photovoltaic systems, and plastic oil containers).
 - \$2 million to support the Australian Council of Recycling's 'Project Yellowsail' national recycling app that will help reduce recycling contamination.
 - \$1.6 million to work with Planet Ark and the Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation to establish an online Circular Economy Hub matching buyers and sellers of waste.
 - Continue working to halve food waste by 2030 under our National Food Waste Strategy, with an additional \$500,000 to support the delivery of a Fight Food Waste campaign by OzHarvest.
- The Department of Environment and Energy is the lead agency for waste and recycling. Specific policy questions should be referred to the Department.

Waste and Recycling Taskforce (the Taskforce)

- A National Waste and Recycling Taskforce has been established to implement the COAG commitment.
 - The Taskforce will be led jointly by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Department of the Environment and Energy.

- *“Industry-led mechanisms for investing in new recycling technologies and mitigating plastic waste in rivers, beaches and oceans on a global scale is absolutely essential.”*

Prime Minister
National Statement to the UN General Assembly, 25 September 2019

Background

Responsibilities

- Responsibility for waste management is shared between the Australian, state, territory and local governments.
- The *Australian Government* is responsible for international engagement, national leadership and coordination, addressing national market failures and national data and reporting.
- *States and Territories* are primarily responsible for the regulation and management of waste and resource recovery in Australia.
- *Local councils* deliver waste management services, including kerbside collection and recycling facilities, under rules set by states and territories.

Timeline: Commonwealth actions

Date	Action
2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australian Government committed to a \$167 million Australian Recycling Investment Plan to increase Australia's recycling rates, tackle plastic waste and litter, accelerate work on new recycling schemes, and continue action to halve food waste by 2030. COAG agreement to ban the export of waste plastic, paper, glass and tyres.
2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australia's Environment Ministers agreed to a new National Waste Policy. This includes nationally agreed priorities for collective action by businesses, governments, communities and individuals to address waste and recycling in Australia to 2030. Agreement on the National Waste Action Plan (to support the National Waste Policy) deferred to the Meeting of Environment Ministers in 2019. Australia's Environment Ministers endorsed a target of 100 per cent of Australian packaging being recyclable, compostable or reusable by 2025 or earlier. Australian Government commenced publication of monthly reports on exports of recyclable materials.
2017	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Then Minister Frydenberg released the national food waste strategy to halve Australia's food waste by 2030, building on commitments made by then Minister Hunt in 2016.
2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australia's environment ministers agreed to a voluntary phase-out of plastic microbeads. Australia's environment ministers agreed to a national target to reduce food waste by half by 2030.
2011	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new Commonwealth Product Stewardship Act was introduced, including a new National Television and Computer Recycling Scheme.
2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australian Government commissioned and released the first National Waste Report (describing Australia's national performance on waste and recycling). National Waste Reports released thereafter in 2013, 2016 and 2018.
2009	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environment Protection and Heritage Council (a sub-committee of the Council of Australian Governments) agreed to the first National Waste Policy. The Policy included a commitment to Australian Government delivery of a Product Stewardship Act.

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