

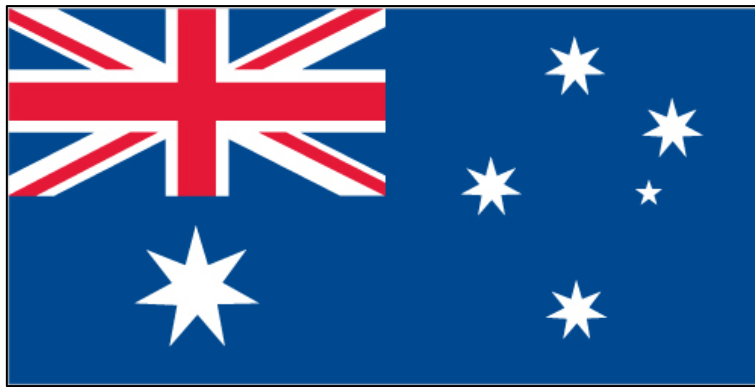
## CLIMATE CHANGE LEGISLATION IN

# AUSTRALIA

*AN EXCERPT FROM*

## The 2015 Global Climate Legislation Study

A Review of Climate Change Legislation in 99 Countries



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# Australia

## Legislative Process

The Australian parliamentary system is based on the UK's Westminster system. The Federal Parliament is bicameral, consisting of the House of Representatives (the Lower House), and the Senate (the Upper House). The Senate is composed of equal numbers of representatives from all six Australian states, with additional Senators representing Australian Territories (76 in total). Senators are elected for six-year terms. In the House of Representatives, the number of members of parliament per state is proportional to population (currently 150 members). Members are elected for three-year terms. The most recent election was in 2013 with the next due before 14 January 2017. Australia retains the Sovereign of the United Kingdom as its head of state. All laws are formally enacted by the Sovereign (Royal Assent) as a formality after passage through Parliament.

Proposed laws are called bills, and can be introduced into either House, except for bills that propose expenditure or tax levies (appropriation or money bills), which must be introduced in the House of Representatives. In practice, most bills are introduced in the House of Representatives. All bills must be passed (by a series of three readings) by both Houses to become law (Acts). It is possible for the Senate to block the passage of legislation even when the government has a clear majority in the House of Representatives. In the case of parliamentary deadlock, the constitution allows the Governor-General (the Sovereign's representative) to authorise a "double dissolution" election under specific circumstances, at the request of the Prime Minister.

Australia operates under a Federal system of government, with six states (formerly separate colonies) and two territories with considerable autonomy, defined areas of jurisdictional responsibility under the Constitution and separate Parliaments. This chapter covers only those laws and policies that are enacted nationwide.

## Approach to Climate Change

Climate change has been a contentious issue since the late 1990s. In 1998, the government set up the Australian Greenhouse Office (AGO), the world's first national government agency dedicated to reducing GHG emissions, and the National Carbon Accounting System (NCAS). Australia signed the Kyoto Protocol in 1998, but did not ratify it until 2007. Controversy over the introduction of federal legislation to limit GHG emissions became particularly acute from 2009, with the major parties (the Australian Labor Party or ALP, and the Liberal-National Party coalition) advocating different approaches.

In 2007, the LNP coalition government introduced the National Greenhouse Energy and Reporting (NGER) Act, which established a single national reporting framework for GHG emissions and energy use and production, in part to provide information to underpin a future emissions trading scheme (ETS). The Garnaut Climate Change Review (released 2008, updated 2011) indicated that an ETS could help to "decarbonise" the economy, and would not be inflationary if permit revenue were used to compensate households. Major political controversy surrounded the first attempt (by the ALP government) to introduce an ETS through the Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme Bill (CPRS), which was twice defeated in the Senate in 2009, giving rise to a trigger for a double dissolution election. In 2010, it was announced that the CPRS would be put on hold until 2012.

However, after a federal election in 2010, the new minority ALP government (which relied on the Greens to pass bills in the Senate) began anew to introduce climate change legislation. A new package of 18 bills to combat climate change, headed by the Clean Energy Act 2011, was passed by the House of Representatives and by a narrow majority in the Senate. The Clean Energy Legislative

package created a carbon pricing mechanism that began in July 2012, with the price to be paid by the largest business emitters fixed for the first three years before moving to a floating price ETS.

Ongoing issues related to the carbon pricing mechanism included the potential effects on emissions-intensive industries, and the effects on household electricity and general consumption bills. As a result, the package included transitional assistance for “emissions-intensive trade-exposed industries” and substantial cuts to income tax, particularly for low-income earners, and increases to the pension and allowances in order to compensate for any price rises. Household transportation fuel consumption and emissions from agriculture and other land-based activities were exempt from the carbon price.

In 2012, the Minister for Climate Change and Energy Efficiency and the European Commissioner for Climate Action announced their intention to connect the Australian ETS to the European Union ETS, through an interim one-way link from 1 July 2015 and a full two-way link from 2018. The intent to link with the EU ETS was formalised with the passage of the Clean Energy Amendment (International Emissions Trading and Other Measures) Bill 2012 and six related bills, which, in addition to amending Australia’s emissions unit registry to permit the use of European Union Allowances<sup>1</sup>, introduced two main changes to the Australian scheme: first, removal of the price floor on carbon credits; second, the application of a new sub-limit to the use of eligible Kyoto credits. With a change of Prime Minister in July 2013, the ALP signalled its intention to bring forward by one year the move from a fixed price on carbon to a floating price ETS. Bills to implement this intent were never introduced to parliament due to a change of government, as the Tony Abbot-led coalition was elected in the general election of 2013. One of the major pre-election promises of the coalition was to revoke the carbon tax and in July 2014 the Clean Energy Legislation (Carbon Tax Repeal) Bill 2014 was passed by the Senate.<sup>2</sup>

In place of the Clean Energy Act and the carbon tax, the government has passed the Carbon Farming Initiative Amendment Bill 2014, which implements the Emissions Reduction Fund (ERF). The ERF is intended to contribute towards the government’s commitment to reduce GHG emissions by 5% below 2000 levels by 2020. This target is a bipartisan target i.e. supported by both the Australian Labor Party and the coalition government and represents the equivalent of a reduction of 19% against business-as-usual levels in 2020. Through the ERF the government will purchase low-cost abatement through reverse auctions. It consists of three parts: crediting emissions reductions that have been certified by the Clean Energy Regulator, and based on methods considered by an independent assurance body; purchasing credited reductions by the Regulator through auctions where the lowest bids are bought first and payment under the contract is tied to delivery of reductions; and safeguarding of public money spent on reductions by setting emissions baselines for large facilities. The safeguard mechanism will apply from July 2016 and is intended to protect taxpayer funds by ensuring that emissions reductions paid for are not displaced by a significant rise in emissions elsewhere in the economy.

Australian carbon credit units will be issued for emissions reductions estimated and verified in accordance with approved ERF methods. This will provide legal certainty about the ownership of emissions units and reduce the risk of double-counting and fraud. The Kyoto-compliant Australian National Registry of Emissions Units (ANREU) remains in place as the framework for rules around issuance, holding and transfer of emissions units.

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<sup>1</sup> At first indirectly, through a ‘shadow units’ system, and then directly when a full two-way link was in place.

<sup>2</sup> Other associated Acts that were also passed as part of the abolition of the carbon tax are the: Customs Tariff Amendment (Carbon Tax Repeal) Act 2014; Excise Tariff Amendment (Carbon Tax Repeal) Act 2014; Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas (Import Levy) Amendment (Carbon Tax Repeal) Act 2014; Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas (Manufacture Levy) Amendment (Carbon Tax Repeal) Act 2014; True-up Shortfall Levy (Excise) (Carbon Tax Repeal) Act 2014; True-up Shortfall Levy (General) (Carbon Tax Repeal) Act 2014; and the Ozone Protection and Synthetic Greenhouse Gas (Import Levy) (Transitional Provisions) Act 2014.

Public consultation on ERF methods is ongoing, with 17 priority methods already released for comment. These include: destroying the methane component of coal mine waste gas by operating one or more methane destruction devices; treating eligible organic waste at an alternative waste treatment facility rather than disposing of it in landfill; and combusting methane from landfill gas using a flare, boiler, or internal combustion engine.

A bill to abolish the Climate Change Authority was rejected in the Senate in March 2014, but a second version of the bill, the Climate Change Authority (Abolition) Bill 2013 [No. 2], is currently before the Senate.<sup>3</sup> However, as part of the political agreement to pass the Carbon Farming Initiative Amendment Bill 2014, the government has abandoned its pre-election pledge to scrap the Climate Change Authority. As such, the Climate Change Authority (Abolition) Bill 2013 [No. 2] is on hold. It also appears that the government will not further progress bills currently before Parliament to abolish the Clean Energy Finance Corporation (the Clean Energy Finance Corporation (Abolition) Bill 2014) and the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) (the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (Repeal) Bill 2014). ARENA was established in 2012 as an independent statutory authority to increase the supply of renewable energy and improve its competitiveness by funding development projects and research activities.

Australia's greenhouse gas emissions are estimated as a nation, by state and by industry. The National Greenhouse Accounts, which track national emissions from 1990 onwards, are published quarterly to meet reporting commitments under the UNFCCC. The National Greenhouse Accounts are supported by company emissions measurement rules, legislated under the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting (Measurement) Determination. These reporting rules are reviewed annually.

The framework for the measurement, reporting and verification of emissions is the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Scheme (NGERS). NGERS sets out the rules for how emissions must be measured and reported. NGERS will underpin the ERF in that credits for abatement achieved will be based on the same rules for how emissions must be measured and reported and then audited. Credits will only be issued if they have been verified by an independent auditor.

The Clean Energy Regulator remains the government body responsible for implementing climate change mitigation laws. The Regulator will take on implementation of the ERF, in addition to ongoing implementation of other programs such as the Renewable Energy Target, legacy Carbon Farming Initiative projects, the NGERS and ANREU.

As a further part of recent changes to climate change policy, the Australian Climate Change Science Programme, which had been operating since 1989 and which provided fundamental climate system science to support decision-making, has been dissolved and merged with the National Environmental Research Programme into a new National Environmental Science Programme (NESP). The NESP will receive AUD25.5m (USD21.99 million) per annum and will require groups of research institutions to form research hubs and apply, via a competitive process, for funding on the following six topics: clean air and urban landscapes; earth systems; marine biodiversity; Northern Australia environmental resources; threatened species recovery; and tropical water quality. Climate change science will be addressed by the earth systems research hub.

The Climate Change Research Strategy for Primary Industries (CCRSPI), operating since 2007 under a mandate from the Primary Industry Ministerial Council and Primary Industry Standing Committee, leads the national collaboration, co-ordination and communication of climate change research, development and extension activity for primary industries. Research programmes such as the

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<sup>3</sup> Some minor laws related to the original 2011 Clean Energy Act are currently still in force, namely the: Clean Energy (Consequential Amendments) Act 2011; Clean Energy (Household Assistance Amendments) Act 2011; Clean Energy (Tax Laws Amendments) Act 2011; and the Clean Energy Regulator Act 2011.

Climate Change Research Programme and Carbon Farming Futures (CFF) – Filling the Research Gap, Action on the Ground and Extension and Outreach programmes are led by the Department of Agriculture. The government has approved 200 grants worth AUD138.9m (USD119.8m) under these CFF programmes. These projects are supporting research, trials and extension of the ways farmers and land managers can reduce agricultural GHG emissions, increase storage of carbon in soil, and maintain productivity while adapting to a changing climate. Adaptation-related research is also carried out through the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility, which was recently provided with grant funding of AUD9m (USD7.76m) over three years.

In addition to domestic efforts to tackle climate change, Australia is involved in many regional and global activities, providing opportunities to build stronger political relationships and influence other countries' climate change policies, and for capacity building in developing countries. It is involved in setting up REDD+ projects and has an allocated budget towards supporting adaptation efforts in developing countries.

### **Sub-national level**

Several states have climate legislation and emission reduction targets. South Australia set ambitious targets in its 2007 legislation – reducing emissions to 40% under 1990 levels by 2050; and production and consumption of at least 20% renewable energy by 2014. Victoria's Climate Change Act 2010 came into effect in 2011. Following federal legislation, the Act was reviewed and “found no compelling case to maintain the (Victorian) target” when a national scheme was in place. State emission reduction targets (which are more ambitious than the federal targets) will be repealed from the state legislation; however, other elements of the legislation, including adaptation plans, will remain intact (and a Victorian Climate Change Adaptation Plan was published in response in 2013). New South Wales produced several plans, which include a commitment to be net carbon neutral by 2020, as well as other targets and measures with regards to energy consumption and supply and transportation. The Australian Capital Territory also introduced ambitious legislation including net carbon neutrality by 2060. It remains to be seen how the results of the 2013 general election and the subsequent shift in national policy, will affect sub-national activity.

### **Energy demand**

The overarching framework for energy efficiency is the National Strategy on Energy Efficiency (NSEE), updated in 2010 and published by the Council of Australian Governments (COAG). This strategy builds on the National Framework for Energy Efficiency, published in 2004, and which now exists as a sub-set of the NSEE.

However, in December 2014 the COAG Energy Council committed to develop a new policy framework for energy productivity to co-ordinate nationally across both energy efficiency and energy market reform. This relates to a government proposal in the 2014 Energy Green Paper to consider a “National Energy Productivity Plan”. It is expected therefore this new framework will emerge and may replace the NSEE within 2015.

While the previous government outlined plans for a national Energy Savings Initiative (ESI), designed to tie in with carbon pricing measures under the Clean Energy Act, this has not been taken forward. A national ESI would have placed obligations on energy retailers to implement energy savings in households and businesses, and would have assisted consumers to save money through energy efficient technologies.

In the 2012-2013 financial year, the government provided funding of AUD37.1m (USD31.2 million) over four years (between 2012-2013 and 2015-2016) to assist in establishing a nationally-consistent legislative framework to regulate the energy efficiency of equipment and appliances. This addresses two policy objectives of improving energy efficiency and reducing GHG emissions by consolidating seven state and territory legal frameworks into a single piece of Commonwealth legislation. The Greenhouse and Energy Minimum Standards Act 2012 (the GEMS Act) aims to

promote the development and adoption of products that use less energy and produce fewer greenhouse gases. The main policy tools to achieve these objectives are mandatory Minimum Energy Performance Standards and Energy Rating Labels for appliances and equipment. The budget also included AUD2.8m (USD2.4m) in additional funding for a range of building energy efficiency activities, including maintenance and improvement of current building regulatory schemes.

An Energy Efficiency Opportunities programme was launched to encourage large energy-using businesses to improve their energy efficiency. Large corporations (either individually or as part of a corporate group) that used over 0.5 petajoules of energy per year were mandated to participate, with medium users able to participate voluntarily. However, due to the passing of the Energy Efficiency Opportunities (Repeal) Bill 2014, the programme has ceased.

To drive energy efficiency in the commercial building sector specifically, in 2010 the government launched the Commercial Building Disclosure (CBD) programme. The CBD programme requires most sellers and lessors of large office spaces to provide energy efficiency information to prospective buyers and tenants. The government collects and publishes this information to make available clear and credible energy efficiency and greenhouse emissions data. The policy intends to result in a more informed commercial property market, with a focus on energy efficient buildings and reduced emissions. The programme is underpinned by the Building Energy Efficiency Disclosure Act 2010 and sub-ordinate legislation.

### **Energy supply**

Australia has had legislation in place to incentivise increased renewable energy generation since 2000 (the Renewable Energy [Electricity] Act 2000), with a Mandatory Renewable Energy Target (MRET) commencing in 2001. From 2009, the MRET was expanded to the Renewable Energy Target (RET) Scheme, designed to ensure that 20% of the nation's electricity supply will be generated from renewable sources by 2020. As of 2011-12, around 9.5% of electricity generation comes from renewable sources. Hydroelectricity, bagasse (a by-product of sugarcane), wood and wood waste together account for 85% of renewable energy production. Wind and solar are rapidly growing sectors and in 2011-12 made up 25% and 6% of generation respectively.

In 2010 the Parliament passed legislation to split the RET into a Large-scale Renewable Energy Target (LRET) and Small-scale Renewable Energy Scheme (SRES), effective from 2011. The two schemes recognise differences between large-scale operations (such as renewable energy projects, and energy suppliers) and small-scale renewable energy systems (such as households, small businesses and communities). Under the amended legislation, liable entities (normally electricity retailers) are required to purchase renewable energy certificates (RECs) from renewable energy providers. This is intended to provide a financial incentive for investment in renewable energy systems. LRET and SRES are overseen by a statutory authority (the Clean Energy Regulator).

### **REDD+ and LULUCF**

In 1990 land use change emissions were 27% of the UNFCCC inventory total. However by 2011 this proportion had decreased to 9% due to a long term trend of declining land-clearing in Australia dating back to the 1970s. The government established the National Carbon Accounting System (NCAS) in 1998 to provide a complete accounting and forecasting system for human-induced sources and sinks of GHG emissions from land-based activities. Reporting capabilities include emissions from LULUCF, as well as projections for future emissions from these categories. Carbon pools that are covered through NCAS include soil carbon and biomass (both above-ground and below-ground). The NCAS is considered one of the leading programmes worldwide in accounting for carbon emissions and sequestration from land-based activities.

The Carbon Farming Initiative, established by the Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Act 2011, allows for emissions reduction or sequestration projects in the land sector, and from landfill waste emissions. The projects earn carbon credits that can be sold to those wishing to offset their



GHG emissions. The initiative covers land-based sequestration activities, native forest protection and emissions avoidance projects. As noted above, the Carbon Farming Initiative Amendment Bill 2014 has been passed by Parliament.

### **Transportation**

Transportation emissions account for approximately 16% of Australia's UNFCCC GHG inventory for 2012, with cars contributing nearly 57% of road transport-related emissions. By 2020, GHG emissions from transport are projected to be 97 Mt CO<sub>2</sub>-e, 29% higher than in 2000. The Green Vehicle Guide, an initiative of the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development, provides ratings on new vehicles based on GHG and air pollution emissions.

### **Adaptation**

Between 2007 and 2013 the government allocated AUD126m (USD108.7m) to a National Climate Change Adaptation Program (CCAP), and allocated a further AUD44m (USD37.9m) to establish the CSIRO Climate Adaptation Flagship. In 2007 a National Climate Change Adaptation Framework was agreed to by a now-disbanded committee of COAG but does not have any legislative or executive force. In 2009 a National Coastal Risk Assessment was published, with a supplement published in 2011, the 'Climate change risks to coastal buildings and infrastructure report'. In 2010, the government published a position paper 'Adapting to climate change in Australia', identifying six national priority areas for action: water, coasts, infrastructure, natural ecosystems, natural disaster management and agriculture. The paper emphasised responsibility sharing between government and private parties, and allocation of responsibilities among different levels of government.

In 2014, the government committed funding of AUD9m (USD7.76m) to the National Climate Change Research Facility to maintain key research networks, synthesise the considerable body of adaptation research already undertaken, and develop a coastal climate risk management framework to support local decision making.

## ***Australia: Legislative portfolio***

Name of law	Carbon Farming Initiative Amendment Bill 2014
Date	13 December 2014
Summary	<p>This bill establishes the Emissions Reduction Fund, and provides a transition for the Carbon Farming Initiative by amending the Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Act 2011 to provide for the Clean Energy Regulator to conduct auctions and enter into contracts to purchase emissions reductions; enable a broader range of emissions reduction projects to be approved; and amend the project eligibility criteria and processes for approving projects and crediting carbon credit units.</p> <p>The Carbon Credits (Carbon Farming Initiative) Act 2011 set up a scheme for the issue of Australian Carbon Credit Units (ACCUs) in relation to eligible offsets projects. It was part of a package of three Acts to establish the Carbon Farming Initiative, including the Australian National Registry of Emissions Units Act 2011 and the Carbon Credits (Consequential Amendments) Act 2011. The package of Acts established the existence of ACCUs as personal property, which are generally transferable, and can be sold domestically or internationally subject to regulation.</p>

<b>Name of law</b>	<b>Greenhouse and Energy Minimum Standards Act 2012</b>
<b>Date</b>	21 September 2012
<b>Summary</b>	<p>The Act promotes the development and adoption of products that use less energy, produce fewer GHGs, or contribute to the reducing of energy or GHGs produced by other products. It is also intended to give effect to Australia's obligations under the UNFCCC.</p> <p>It establishes greenhouse and energy minimum standards (GEMS) that are to be applied to the supply and commercial use of products that either use energy, or affect the energy used by another product. The specific GEMS are provided for by requirements in Ministerial determinations. A GEMS register is established to ensure products comply with GEMS. An associated act is the Greenhouse and Energy Minimum Standards (Registration Fees) Instrument 2013 (No. 2) which specifies the fees payable under the 2012 act.</p>

<b>Name of law</b>	<b>Clean Energy Finance Corporation Act 2012</b>
<b>Date</b>	22 July 2012
<b>Summary</b>	<p>The Act establishes the Clean Energy Finance Corporation to facilitate increased flows of finance into the clean energy sector. The main function of the corporation is to invest its funds (USD2bn per annum until 2017) into clean energy technologies.</p> <p>A Clean Energy Finance Corporation (Abolition) Bill 2014 is currently before the House of Representatives which would abolish the Clean Energy Finance Corporation. This bill would also amend the Australian Renewable Energy Agency Act 2011 and Clean Energy Regulator Act 2011 to make amendments consequent on the repeal. As part of the process to ensure the passage of the Carbon Farming Initiative Amendment Bill 2014, the government has announced it will not bring this bill back to parliament in 2014; however it may do so in 2015 or beyond.</p>

<b>Name of law</b>	<b>Australian National Registry of Emissions Units Act 2011</b>
<b>Date</b>	15 September 2011
<b>Summary</b>	<p>The Act establishes the Australian National Registry of Emissions Units and details the specifics of its operation, such as the operation of Registry accounts. The Act was most recently amended in late 2014 to account for amendments necessary to account for the passing of the Carbon Farming Initiative Amendment Act 2014.</p>

<b>Name of law</b>	<b>Climate Change Authority Act 2011</b>
<b>Date</b>	29 November 2011
<b>Summary</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Act establishes the Climate Change Authority which is required to conduct reviews under other acts such as the Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000 and conduct research about matters relating to climate change. While discharging its functions, the Climate Change Authority is to have regard to the principle that any measure to respond to climate change must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be economically efficient;</li> <li>Be environmentally effective;</li> <li>Be equitable;</li> <li>Be in the public interest;</li> <li>Take account of the impact on households, business, workers and communities;</li> <li>Support the development of an effective global response to climate change; and</li> <li>Be consistent with Australia's foreign policy and trade objectives;</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>A bill to abolish the Climate Change Authority was rejected in the Senate in March 2014, but a second version of the bill, the Climate Change Authority (Abolition) Bill 2013 [No. 2], is currently before the Senate. However, as part of the process to ensure the passage of the Carbon Farming Initiative Amendment Bill 2014, the government has announced it would abandon its pre-election pledge to scrap the Climate Change Authority. As such, the Climate Change Authority (Abolition) Bill 2013 [No. 2] is currently on hold.</p>



<b>Name of law</b>	<b>Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2006</b>
<b>Date</b>	1 July 2008, some provisions activated 29 March 2006
<b>Summary</b>	<p>The Act aims to provide an effective regulatory framework for petroleum exploration and recovery, and the exploration for potential GHG storage formations, injection and storage of GHG substances in offshore areas (Commonwealth waters). The Act provides a comprehensive national framework for offshore petroleum exploration and GHG storage activities, as these are managed jointly by the relevant State and Commonwealth agencies.</p> <p>The Act designates a “Joint Authority” for each offshore area, which are responsible for implementing the Act. The Joint Authorities typically comprise the responsible State Minister and the responsible Commonwealth Minister. The National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) is the national regulator responsible for administration of occupational health and safety provisions, structural integrity (wells and facilities) provisions, and environmental management provisions for all petroleum activities, and for occupational health and safety for persons engaged in offshore GHG storage activities. The National Offshore Petroleum Titles Administrator (NOPTA or the Titles Administrator), advises the Joint Authorities on key decisions and is responsible for keeping registers of titles and data and information management.</p> <p>The Act was most recently amended by the Offshore Petroleum and Greenhouse Gas Storage Amendment (Compliance Measures No. 2) Act 2013.</p>

<b>Name of law</b>	<b>National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007</b>
<b>Date</b>	29 September 2007. First reporting period commenced 1 July 2008
<b>Summary</b>	<p>The Act establishes the legislative framework for the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Scheme. The goal of the NGER Act was to introduce a single national reporting framework for the reporting and dissemination of information related to GHG emissions, GHG projects, energy consumption and energy production of corporations. The NGER Act was in part designed to underpin the introduction of a future emissions trading scheme. Additionally, the NGER Act is intended to meet international GHG reporting obligations, and reduce red tape and duplication associated with emissions reporting.</p> <p>The NGER Act sets out a number of thresholds in relation to GHG emissions, energy production and energy consumption. Corporations that meet an annual NGER threshold must register with the Clean Energy Regulator, and submit annual reports of GHG emissions, energy production, energy consumption, and other information. The annual reports cover the financial year (1 July to 30 June). All registered corporations are required to submit a report, even where the threshold has not been met in a given reporting year. Failure to submit reports on time can attract penalties.</p> <p>If the Climate Change Authority (Abolition) Bill 2013 [No. 2] passes into law, the Act may be amended to require the Minister to cause to be conducted reviews of the operation of the Act and legislative instruments under the Act.</p>

<b>Name of law</b>	<b>Renewable Energy (Electricity) Act 2000 and associated legislation, including: Renewable Energy (Electricity) (Large-scale Generation Shortfall Charge) Act 2000, Renewable Energy (Electricity) Amendment Act 2010 and Renewable Energy (Electricity) (Small-scale Technology Shortfall Charge) Act 2010</b>
<b>Date</b>	21 December 2000
<b>Summary</b>	<p>The Act and associated legislation establishes the framework for the Large-scale Renewable Energy Target (LRET) and the Small-scale Renewable Energy Scheme (SRES). LRET and SRES aim to encourage additional electricity generation from renewable sources; reduce emissions of GHGs in the electricity sector; and ensure that renewable energy sources are ecologically sustainable. The renewable energy supply target for 2013 is 18,238GWh; targets to reach 41,000GWh by 2020, excluding an additional 850GWh per year from 2013 to 2020 for waste coal mine gas.</p> <p>These goals are achieved by the creation of online certificates by eligible renewable energy sources based on the amount of electricity in megawatt hours (MWh):</p>

- 
- Generated by a renewable energy power station, or small-scale solar panel, wind or hydro system; or
  - Displaced by a solar water heater or heat pump

They also include placing a legal obligation on liable entities (usually electricity retailers) to purchase and surrender a certain amount of these certificates each year. The trade in these certificates provides financial incentives for investment in renewable energy power stations, and for the installation of solar water heaters, heat pumps and small-scale solar panel, wind and hydro systems.

The Office of the Renewable Energy Regulator (ORER) is a statutory authority established in 2001 to oversee the implementation of the RET and the SRES. This function was subsumed into the Clean Energy Regulator in 2011.

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### ***Australia: Executive portfolio***

<b>Name of policy</b>	<b>National Strategy on Energy Efficiency</b>
<b>Date</b>	July 2010
<b>Summary</b>	<p>The National Strategy on Energy Efficiency (NSEE) provides the overarching framework for energy efficiency policy. It is designed to substantially improve minimum standards for energy efficiency and accelerate the introduction of new technologies through improving regulatory processes and addressing the barriers to the uptake of new energy-efficient products and technologies. It also aims to encourage and support innovation in energy efficient technologies and approaches.</p> <p>It is based on four key themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assisting households and businesses to transition to a low-carbon future;</li><li>• Reducing impediments to the uptake of energy efficiency;</li><li>• Making buildings more energy efficient; and</li><li>• Government working in partnership and leading the way.</li></ul>

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