Australian Government

Department of the Environment and Energy

CORPORATE PLAN 2019–20

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Cover image
Tae Rak (Lake Condah), Budj Bim World Heritage Area
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I, Finn Pratt, as the accountable authority of the Department of the Environment and Energy, present the 2019–20 corporate plan, which covers the periods of 2019–20 to 2022–23, as required under paragraph 35(1)(b) of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*. The corporate plan is prepared in accordance with section 16E of the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014.

Department of the Environment and Energy

Corporate Plan 2019–20

The Department acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures and to their elders both past and present.

Early morning view of the sandstone cliffs of Kennedy Range National Park in the Gascoyne region of Western Australia © Nick Rains

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Mallee emu-wren © Tom Hunt

Secretary's message

I am pleased to release the Department of the Environment and Energy Corporate Plan 2019–20, which sets out what we intend to achieve, and how we plan to measure our progress, over the next four years (2019–20 to 2022–23).

The Department's role is to support our Ministers by providing advice on environment and energy policy, implementing the Government's decisions, and administering programs and regulation. Through the work we do, we support the Government in achieving a healthy environment, strong economy and thriving community now and for the future. We work across four interconnected purposes: environment and heritage, climate change, energy, and Antarctica.

Our priorities for 2019–20 include:

- Leading national action to reduce waste and increase recycling and reuse of materials to improve the circular economy
- Protecting Australia's unique environment by administering and improving national environmental law through a review of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*
- Improving biodiversity outcomes and contributing to agriculture outcomes through policy measures and programs, including the National Landcare Program and managing environmental water
- Delivering the Government's major environmental policies, including the Environment Restoration Fund and the Government's commitments to Kakadu, the Great Barrier Reef and Antarctica
- Delivering affordable and reliable energy and gas for households and businesses, including by delivering the Underwriting New Generation Investments Program, ensuring reliability of transmission (including for Snowy 2.0), and delivering the Liquid Fuel Security Review
- Reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions through measures such as the Climate Solutions Fund, energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives.

We develop advice to the Government that takes into account perspectives from the community, business, industry, state and territory governments, academia and non-government organisations. We understand the complexity and interdependencies of the issues we work on and seek to balance environmental and energy outcomes with economic and social outcomes. We do this while keeping in mind the long-term implications of policies and decisions.

We are committed to evaluating what we do and how we do it, as well as engaging with risk, so that we can continue to improve our processes, systems and capability to ensure they are fit for purpose.

Our people are professional and highly capable. Most importantly, they are committed to achieving the Government's objectives and making a positive difference in the lives of all Australians.

I believe this plan will help ensure we are as effective as possible in carrying out our role and I look forward to working with our Ministers, partners and stakeholders to meet its strategic priorities.

Finn Pratt AO PSM
Secretary
Department of the Environment and Energy

Operational context

The Department supports the Australian Government to protect Australia's environment and heritage and to reduce emissions, while enhancing the economic and social values of Australia's natural resources. We also support the Government to achieve affordability, reliability and security in Australia's energy markets, while improving the integration of renewables and supporting economic growth.

Australia's environment is unique and one of the most biodiverse in the world. Eighty per cent of our plants and 90 per cent of our animals are found nowhere else on earth. This biodiversity is fundamental to human wellbeing. It provides the raw materials that so many industries and livelihoods depend on, as well as the ecosystems we rely on for clean air and water and agriculture. Biodiversity makes many of our recreational pursuits possible and gives scientists a wealth of data that help us better understand the world we live in and the trends shaping our future. Culturally, our distinct and diverse ecosystems and landscapes are part of who we are and their conservation for future generations is a responsibility all Australians share. We recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their continuing connection to land, sea and community.

Affordable and reliable energy is essential to wellbeing and productivity—it is connected to almost everything we do.

Both the environment and our energy system are facing many pressures. The key pressures affecting our biodiversity include changes in land-use, invasive species and climate change. The key pressures affecting our energy system include rapid changes in technology and availability of resources.

Our work is diverse and complex, covering policy, on-ground programs, regulation, science and research, international negotiations, and managing operational programs such as the Australian Antarctic program. As well as the pressures affecting the issues we work on, our operating environment involves other factors that affect what we do and how we do it. These include economic trends and development, rapid technological advancement, increasing community expectations, and a decline in public trust, as well as geopolitical dynamics.

Designing and implementing effective responses to the challenges in our operating environment requires us to take a multidisciplinary approach and work closely with others, domestically and internationally. This includes people from all sectors and levels of government and, most importantly, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, whose knowledge of country is critical to the success of Government policies and programs.

At the core of our role is the need to balance environmental, economic and social objectives and outcomes. In order to be effective at doing this, and delivering for Government and the Australian people, we are committed to continually evaluating what's working well and what's not, learning from mistakes, and then improving our capability accordingly.

Strategic risks

Our strategic risks reflect our understanding of our operational context.

1. **We are not influential**

   As a department of state we must be a trusted policy adviser and effective regulator. Given the importance of our responsibilities to Australia's society and economy, and the often high-profile nature of environment and energy issues, we need the confidence of our ministers, the Government, business and the community. We are most influential when we communicate proactively and take a collaborative and evidence-based approach to our work.

2. **We do not acquire, maintain, develop and integrate the required capabilities**

   Integrating our resources, systems and tools and building the right capabilities in our workforce makes us more efficient, influential and effective.

3. **We do not adapt to and embrace change**

   The world we operate in is constantly changing. We need to keep pace with change, understand its impact and integrate new thinking and approaches into the way we do our work.

4. **External events increase operational complexity or overwhelm us**

   Factors beyond our control may affect our ability to achieve our purposes. We can prepare for external events by horizon scanning for future threats and opportunities and building an agile workforce.

5. **Our business causes harm or a dangerous event**

   We are committed to looking at the consequences of our actions, with a particular focus on the health, safety and wellbeing of our staff and the people who are affected by our work. We do this by understanding the potential impacts of our policies, programs and regulations and establishing measures to manage those impacts.

Our approach to managing risk is detailed in the capabilities section of this plan.

Our purposes

We support our ministers in achieving the Government's objectives and meeting our legislative and policy responsibilities. Our role and four purposes are set out below, followed by our strategic priorities and the key policies, programs and regulations we are implementing to achieve our purposes.

Department's role	**The role of the Department of the Environment and Energy is to provide advice on environment and energy policy, implement the Government's decisions, and administer programs and regulation. Our work supports the Government in achieving a healthy environment, strong economy and thriving community now and for the future.**			
Purposes	**Environment and Heritage:** Conserve, protect and sustainably manage our environment and heritage	**Climate Change:** Develop and implement a national response to climate change	**Energy:** Support the reliable, affordable, sustainable and secure operations of energy markets	**Antarctica:** Advance Australia's strategic, scientific and environmental interests in the Antarctic
Cross-cutting Science, Information and Research activity				

While our purposes are identified separately in the above diagram, they are deeply interconnected. For example, climate change is affecting our environment and Antarctica; and our energy policies and programs contribute to meeting our emissions reduction targets.

Our strategic priorities

Reduce waste and increase recycling and reuse of materials to improve the circular economy

- Working with Australian governments to implement the National Waste Policy, develop a National Action Plan and ban the export of waste plastic, paper, glass and tyres

Species and ecosystem diversity, extent, function and abundance are maintained or improved

- Protecting priority species and ecological communities, internationally significant wetlands and natural and cultural heritage sites through the National Landcare Program, Environment Restoration Fund and management and use of Commonwealth environmental water
- Administering and improving the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*

Our oceans, coastal environments and waterways are protected

- Implementing the Great Barrier Reef 2050 Long-term Sustainability Plan and the Reef Trust program to increase the reef's resilience
- Working with states and territories and in our region to protect coasts and oceans including through the Environment Restoration Fund and Pacific Ocean Litter project

Our heritage is recognised and protected

- Administering legislation and providing advice to support the identification and protection of significant natural, Indigenous and historic heritage places

The environment and people are not harmed by chemicals or pollutants

- Implementing national approaches to chemicals management in partnership with states, territories and local governments

Australia's greenhouse gas emission targets are achieved

- Delivering emissions reductions through the Climate Solutions Package
- Integrating renewables into the electricity market
- Strengthening Australia's climate resilience and working across Australian Government agencies to improve climate risk management

Energy is reliable, affordable and secure

- Delivering the Underwriting New Generation Investments program and Snowy 2.0 to support reliable energy infrastructure
- Accelerating the development of the wholesale gas market to improve the affordability of gas
- Support households, businesses and industry to make more energy efficient choices and reduce energy use

Australian leadership in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean is strengthened

- Implementing the Australian Antarctic Strategy and 20 Year Action Plan to improve the protection and our understanding of Antarctica and the Southern Ocean

Collaborative research and improved knowledge inform environment and energy decision-making

- Delivering practical research through the National Environmental Science Program
- Producing national environmental-economic accounts

Dean Knudson
Deputy Secretary, Environment Protection

Jo Evans
Deputy Secretary, Climate Change and Energy Innovation

Rob Heferen
Deputy Secretary, Energy

Matt Cahill
Deputy Secretary, Strategy and Operations

Blue iceberg at Kazak Island near Casey research station © Kerry Steinberner and the Australian Antarctic Division

Our capabilities

To help deliver on our strategic priorities we need to nurture our capabilities as a department. We are focusing on eight essential capabilities:

1. Preparing our workforce for the future
2. Improving our technology and digital capabilities
3. Maintaining a positive risk culture
4. Making evidence-based decisions and providing evidence-based advice
5. Fostering innovation
6. Partnering for better outcomes
7. Communicating and engaging effectively
8. Pursuing regulatory maturity

The first two capabilities are key enablers for our work, our people and our IT infrastructure. The remaining six capabilities strengthen our advice to Government and improve our implementation of Government policies, programs and regulations.

Preparing our workforce for the future

We have a professional, capable and committed workforce. Our people are our biggest asset, and investing in and supporting them will help us deliver on our strategic priorities and mitigate our strategic risks. We do this in an inclusive way that respects and reflects the diversity of our skills, knowledge and backgrounds.

Our *People Strategy 2018–2022* outlines our four-year approach to building the capability of our people. To support our workforce for the future, we are delivering initiatives under the strategy's four pillars:

- **Nurture and grow our skills**—we will invest in our people, our core competencies and our critical and specialist skills.
- **Cultivate leadership**—our leaders will be influential, inclusive, respectful, accountable, innovative and collaborative.
- **Embrace the benefits of diversity**—we will attract and celebrate people from all backgrounds and continue to strengthen our inclusive and supportive environment.
- **Facilitate safe and healthy workplaces**—we will ensure the health and safety of our people and the people our work directly affects.

During 2019–20 our priorities under the four pillars are:

- nurturing and growing our leadership, policy and data capability skills and developing and implementing a learning and development strategy
- implementing our *Leadership Strategy 2019–2023*, which describes the specific capabilities and behaviours our leaders need now and for the future
- fostering an inclusive culture by implementing our *Indigenous Employment and Capability Strategy 2016–2019* and *Inclusion Strategy 2019–2023* and updating our *Reconciliation Action Plan 2016–2019*
- continuing to implement our *Work Health and Safety Strategic Blueprint 2020*.

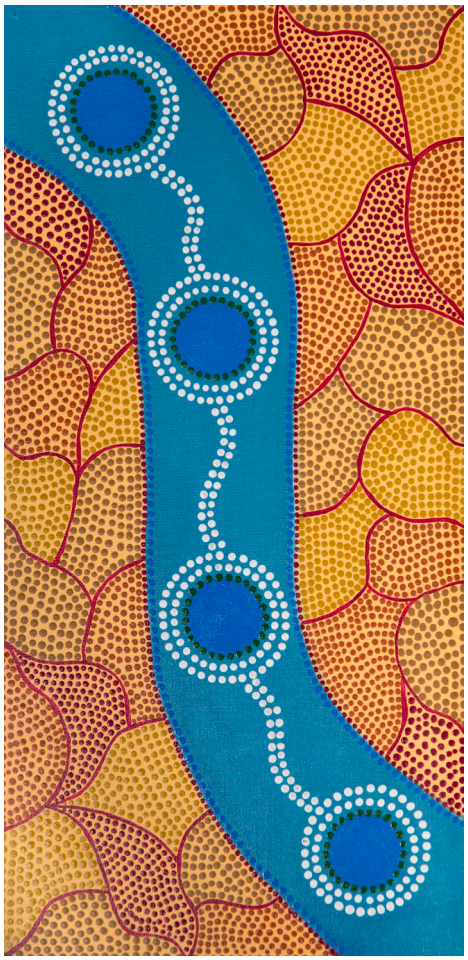
Reconciliation Action Plan

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples are vital partners in the Department's business. We help to address Indigenous disadvantage through our policies and programs and support the aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to maintain, protect and manage their culture, language, heritage and land and sea country.

Our goal is to be a leader in reconciliation by providing an inclusive workplace that fosters respect, understanding and unity between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and non-Indigenous Australians. The Department's Reconciliation Action Plan 2016–2019 is important in achieving this goal, as it describes how we involve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in our work. It is complemented by our *Indigenous Employment and Capability Strategy 2016–2019*.

We have been successful in a number of areas under our current Reconciliation Action Plan, including exceeding both our Indigenous employment target of 8 per cent and the Indigenous procurement targets set out in the Australian Government's Indigenous Procurement Policy.

This year we are reviewing our Reconciliation Action Plan. Our next plan will draw on the progress we have made and the lessons we have learned under our current plan. We will focus on becoming an employer of choice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and create an environment in which Indigenous employees can thrive, as well as how we can better consider Indigenous outcomes at the design stage of policies and programs. We intend to launch the new plan in late 2019.



Connections © Peter John Bligh

Improving our technology and digital capabilities

Having appropriate technology in place to operate effectively is critical. Our focus is on ensuring the continuity of existing services while building foundational capabilities for the future. We are giving priority to enterprise-wide solutions that encourage productivity and efficiency. We will continue to increase network security and stability, including at our local, regional and remote sites.

Over the next four years our priorities are:

- offering more services to improve the experience for those who engage with us online
- developing elements of an enterprise platform to acquire, store and manage data to ensure the availability of high-quality information for program and policy decisions
- building cybersecurity resilience and protecting information and systems
- facilitating workplace mobility, collaboration and innovation
- consolidating and standardising operations and technology.

Maintaining a positive risk culture

Risk management is part of the job of all our staff. We encourage staff to openly discuss risk and incorporate risk management thinking into their work. For example, we use scenario exercises to help staff plan and implement cybersecurity risk management measures. We consider risk at all levels and across all parts of our business, using feedback loops to inform decision-making and business processes.

Over the next four years we will:

- continue to foster a positive risk culture through guidance, support and championing of better practice
- build consideration of climate risk into risk management processes.

Developing the Department's climate risk management framework

Many of the Department's activities are affected by risks associated with climate change. The Department is building consideration of climate risk into risk management processes. Recent work has focused on building understanding of climate risks and developing a framework for assessing these risks.

During 2019–20 we will continue to work to embed climate risk considerations into business-as-usual departmental processes. This will include:

- strengthening staff capacity to identify and manage climate risk
- exploring opportunities to update business processes to incorporate climate risk considerations into guidance materials
- work to consider climate risks in the review of relevant policies and programs
- considering the recommendations of the Taskforce on Climate-related Financial Disclosures and how this framework could apply to the Department's reporting obligations.

Making evidence-based decisions and providing evidence-based advice

Accurate and current information on the condition of Australia's environment and energy system underpins the Department's policy advice and decision-making. Our capacity to provide sound advice is fundamentally linked to the quality and accessibility of our data and information.

Over the next four years we will focus on:

- improving the way we use insights from data as we develop, implement and review policies, programs and regulations
- expanding our collection and use of data and providing new ways to integrate, analyse and report it
- systematically managing our information and data throughout its life cycle
- making non-sensitive data public and accessible to external stakeholders.

Fostering innovation

Fostering innovation allows us to be more efficient, influential and effective. Innovation is change that adds value, from small improvements through to large-scale reform.

Over the next four years we will support innovation by:

- recognising and rewarding innovative work
- encouraging experimentation and sharing lessons from what has been tried before
- providing enabling services that help staff explore new ideas, manage risks and implement changes to improve outcomes.

World first use of atmospheric data

The Department has been recognised for its innovative work in using atmospheric measurement data to ensure the environmental integrity of Australia's estimates of synthetic greenhouse gas emissions. The work will be used to help track Australia's progress towards its commitments under the Paris Agreement. The project won the 2019 Secretary's Award for Innovation, and has been recognised as a world first by the World Meteorological Organisation and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Partnering for better outcomes

Through the *Partnering for a Sustainable Environment* statement and a supporting internal operating framework, we are actively facilitating partnerships to help solve policy challenges. We aim to bring the expertise and resources of diverse organisations together to develop and implement effective solutions to environmental and energy challenges. This is fundamental to achieving more sustainable outcomes.

Priorities over the coming four years are:

- establishing new partnerships
- building the Department's partnering capability, with an initial focus on partnering with Indigenous organisations and communities.

10 Deserts Project

The 10 Deserts Project is an Indigenous-led partnership across Australia's desert country that aims to build the environmental resilience of Australia's deserts, improve Indigenous social and economic wellbeing and develop a strong Indigenous voice for the desert by building the capacity of Indigenous people and organisations to look after country.

Driven by the shared purpose of connecting and preserving country, the partnership has created the largest Indigenous-led conservation network on earth (2.7 million km^2). The project is led by Desert Support Services and involves Indigenous organisations supported by international and regional conservation partners.

Engaging and communicating effectively

Engaging with individuals, the community and business during the design and delivery of policies, programs, regulations and services helps us to better understand the needs of those with whom we work. It also helps ensure we develop more targeted and effective solutions that have enduring outcomes.

Over the next four years we will continue to focus on:

- consulting widely and using new technologies to better engage the community
- building our reputation as a trusted source of current, accurate and clear information that anticipates and responds to user needs.

Pursuing regulatory maturity

We are committed to continually improving our regulatory capability and delivering environment and energy outcomes through better-practice regulation. The Department's Regulatory Framework outlines the way we develop and administer environmental and energy regulation, and describes our regulatory role and how we engage with others.

Clear regulatory outcomes are important to building public trust, demonstrating accountability and promoting a culture of continual improvement.

Over the next four years we will continue to focus on:

- using our regulator evaluation framework to embed a consistent approach to monitoring and reporting on our progress towards regulatory maturity
- progressing priority areas for improvement identified in our self-assessment report.

Woakwine Range Wind Farm, South Australia © Dragi Markovic and Department of the Environment and Energy

Appendix A: Our performance information

This section of the plan sets out our performance information and describes how we intend to measure our success in achieving our purposes. Our performance is reported in our annual report.

We measure and report on our performance to track progress against our four purposes and demonstrate accountability to our Ministers and the Government and, through them, to the Parliament and the Australian public.

We are taking considerable steps to improve our performance measurement and reporting framework. This includes reviewing the design and implementation of our framework to ensure it can better support decision-making and drive continual improvement. Evaluation activities help us understand what we are achieving and how we can improve our work.

We recognise that designing and implementing an enhanced, mature performance framework will take several years. In our 2017–18 corporate plan we included a smaller suite of measures explicitly linked to data sources. This year we reviewed and refined the performance measures for our Environment and Heritage and Energy purposes to focus on intended results that more clearly link to our purposes. The selected performance criteria and targets provide a clear picture of our contribution to these intended results.

Reflecting that the measures have been reviewed and updated, the performance information for our Environment and Heritage and Energy purposes is presented differently from the performance information for our other purposes. During 2019–20 we will continue our progressive review of performance information for the Climate Change and Antarctica purposes and the Science, Information and Research activity, with revised information to be included in the 2020–21 corporate plan.

Structure of this appendix

In this section, performance information for each purpose comprises:

- intended results—statements about the impact, difference or result we want to achieve
- delivery strategies—strategies for achieving the intended results, including major projects and initiatives
- performance criteria—measures used to track progress towards an intended result
- targets—specific descriptions of what success against a performance criterion will look like
- rationale—the link between the performance criterion and the intended result
- data sources—the information we will draw on as evidence for our performance against the target.

Yearly measures of success are identified for targets that are yet to be reviewed.

Many of our activities align with the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The goals address the social, economic and environmental aspects of development. The Department leads the Government's work on giving effect to five of the goals: Goal 7 on Affordable and Clean Energy; Goal 12 on Responsible Consumption and Production; Goal 13 on Climate Action; Goal 14 on Life Below Water; and Goal 15 on Life on Land. Our work also supports many of the other goals. Relevant goals are linked to the performance information in this section.

ENVIRONMENT AND HERITAGE PURPOSE:
Conserve, protect and sustainably manage our environment and heritage

Sustainable Development Goals

Intended result: Ecosystem diversity, extent and function are maintained or improved

Relates to PBS Outcome 1 Programs 1.1, 1.4 and 1.5

Delivery strategies:

- Delivering biodiversity conservation and natural resource management programs, including the Reef Trust, the National Landcare Program's Regional Land Partnerships, the Communities Environment Program, the Environment Restoration Fund and the Indigenous Protected Areas and Improving Your Local Parks and Environment programs
- Administering regulation and providing advice to support the identification and protection of threatened species and ecological communities and significant natural heritage places
- Undertaking individual and strategic environmental assessments and approvals and implementing a risk-based approach to compliance and enforcement activities under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act)
- Providing advice and representing Australia's interests on biodiversity matters and meeting obligations under international agreements

Performance criteria	Target			
	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Native vegetation habitat condition	Establish a baseline and methodology	Habitat condition within major vegetation groups improves relative to baseline		
Native vegetation habitat connectivity	Establish a baseline and methodology	Habitat connectivity within major vegetation groups improves relative to baseline		
Native vegetation extent	Establish a baseline and methodology	Extent of major vegetation groups is maintained		
Percentage of terrestrial and inland water in protected areas	17%	Targets to be specified following agreement of the post-2020 agenda under the Convention on Biological Diversity		

Rationale:
Tracking change in the condition, connectivity and extent of habitats is important to determine the effectiveness of policy, regulatory and program interventions to improve native ecosystems, and the species they support. Reporting on these three related indices against the 33 National Vegetation Information System major vegetation groups provides a logical sub-national breakdown and relates to long-established approaches to reporting in the State of the Environment reports and elsewhere.

While Australian Government policy, regulatory and program interventions should influence performance against these criteria, changes in condition, connectivity and extent of habitats will be influenced by a range of other factors, including state and territory government interventions and other stakeholder actions, as well as natural variation and random events.

Australia is committed to implementing its obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) in accordance with national priorities. Australia's Aichi Biodiversity Targets under the CBD include protecting terrestrial areas and inland waters. Reporting on this target gives an indication of national action taken to improve the extent of protected ecosystems.

Data sources:
Habitat Condition Assessment System (HCAS), National Connectivity Index (HCAS-based), National Vegetation Information System, and Collaborative Australian Protected Areas Database

Intended result: Species diversity, range and abundance are maintained or improved

Relates to PBS Outcome 1 Programs 1.1, 1.4 and 1.5

Delivery strategies:

- Delivering biodiversity conservation and natural resource management programs, including the Reef Trust, the National Landcare Program's Regional Land Partnerships, the Threatened Species Recovery Fund, the Communities Environment Program, the Environment Restoration Fund and the Indigenous Protected Areas and Improving Your Local Parks and Environment programs
- Implementing the Threatened Species Strategy in partnership with state/territory governments, non-government organisations, research institutions, Indigenous Australians and the private and community sectors
- Administering regulation and providing advice to support the identification and protection of threatened species and ecological communities and significant natural heritage places
- Undertaking individual and strategic environmental assessments and approvals and implementing a risk-based approach to compliance and enforcement activities under the EPBC Act
- Providing advice and representing Australia's interests on wildlife and biodiversity matters and meeting obligations under international agreements

Performance criteria	Target			
	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Threatened Bird Index	Establish a baseline	Threatened Bird Index improves relative to 2019–20 baseline		
Percentage of threatened species identified as priorities for action and investment showing improvements in their trajectory	N/A	100%*	N/A	
Percentage of natural resource management projects that demonstrate an improvement in environmental outcomes relative to the established project baseline	Establish project baselines	N/A	100%	N/A

*Reporting against the 2020–21 performance criterion will be undertaken in line with reporting against the Threatened Species Strategy Year 5 targets. The strategy targets are set for 30 June 2020, and assessment and reporting will occur in 2020–21.

Rationale:

Threatened Bird Index

The Threatened Bird Index provides an annual indicator of the change in threatened bird populations for approximately 28% of Australia's threatened bird species for which data are available. The Threatened Bird Index may include additional species over time as monitoring improves. Threatened species indices are being developed for mammals and plants and may be included as performance criteria in the future. The Threatened Bird Index was developed by the National Environmental Science Program's Threatened Species Recovery Hub.

While Australian Government policy, regulatory and program interventions should influence performance against this criterion, changes in the Threatened Bird Index will be influenced by a range of other factors, including state and territory government interventions and other stakeholder actions, as well as natural variation and random events.

Threatened species trajectories

The Threatened Species Strategy has a target to improve the trajectory of 20 mammals, 21 birds and 30 plants by June 2020. Improvements in the trajectories of priority threatened species will demonstrate the effectiveness of the Government's investments in priority species and action areas and its partnerships with communities and state and territory governments to address species decline and support recovery. Improvements in the trajectory of a species will be assessed by comparing its estimated trajectory from 2005 to 2015 with its estimated trajectory from 2015 to 2020. Trajectory assessment will be undertaken after 30 June 2020 and reported on in 2020–21. This performance criterion may apply to other species in the future, as additional priorities for action and investment are identified.

This criterion is a sub-component of targets under the Threatened Species Strategy, which also includes targets to tackle feral cats and their impacts, improve recovery practices and protect Australia's plants through activities such as seedbanking.

Projects with improved environmental outcomes

The Department's component of the Regional Land Partnerships program aims to achieve benefits for Wetlands of International Importance listed under the Ramsar Convention, threatened species, World Heritage properties and threatened ecological communities. Each project funded under the program is required to collect baseline information against which changes in environmental condition can be tracked over the 5-year life of the project. Indicators will vary but will include such things as vegetation condition or changes in the trajectory of a threatened species. Projects commenced in 2018–19 and will report on progress towards meeting long-term outcomes in 2021 and 2023. This reporting will enable the Australian Government to demonstrate the effectiveness of its investments in achieving environmental outcomes and will support adaptive management.

This performance criterion currently applies to projects funded through the Regional Land Partnerships program but may be applied to additional programs in the future that operate under a similar monitoring, evaluation, reporting and improvement framework.

Data sources:

National Environmental Science Program Threatened Species Recovery Hub Threatened Bird Index; Threatened Species Strategy Year 5 Report; and Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting and Improvement Tool

Intended result: The Great Barrier Reef is resilient

Relates to PBS Outcome 1 Program 1.1

Delivery strategies:

- Implementing initiatives, such as the Reef 2050 Plan and Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan, jointly with the Queensland Government and Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority to improve the health and resilience of the Great Barrier Reef by addressing pressures such as water quality and the crown-of-thorns starfish
- The key investment vehicles are the Reef Trust, including the Great Barrier Reef Foundation Partnership, the Reef 2050 Plan and the National Landcare Program's Regional Land Partnerships

Performance criterion	Target			
	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Pollutant loads	A reduction in nutrient, sediment and pesticide loads consistent with meeting targets in the Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan*	As for 2019–20		

Rationale:

Great Barrier Reef ecosystems continue to be in poor condition largely due to the collective impact of land run-off associated with past and ongoing agricultural land use, coastal development activities, extreme weather events and climate change impacts such as the 2016 and 2017 coral bleaching events. Improving water quality contributes to the Reef's resilience. Measuring the nutrient and sediment loads gives us an indication of the impact on water quality on the Reef.

*Water quality targets in the Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan include:

- 60% reduction in anthropogenic end-of-catchment dissolved inorganic nitrogen loads (by 2025)
- 20% reduction in anthropogenic end-of-catchment particulate nutrient loads (by 2025)
- 25% reduction in anthropogenic end-of-catchment fine sediments loads (by 2025).

Data sources:

Paddock to Reef Integrated Monitoring, Modelling and Reporting Program; and Great Barrier Reef water quality report cards

Intended result: Heritage is recognised and protected

Relates to PBS Outcome 1 Program 1.4

Delivery strategy:

› Administering legislation and providing advice to support the identification and protection of significant natural, Indigenous and historic heritage places

Performance criteria	Target			
	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Percentage of World Heritage listed properties being managed under management plans that are consistent with the management principles in the EPBC Regulations	100%	As for 2019–20		
Percentage of National Heritage listed properties being managed under management plans that are consistent with the management principles in the EPBC Regulations	16%	Increase from 2019–20		

Rationale:
Management plans consistent with the EPBC Regulations provide a foundation for effective management of World Heritage and National Heritage listed properties. Measuring these performance criteria will support the effective management and protection of matters of national environmental significance.

Data sources:
Individual World Heritage and National Heritage property websites

Relates to PBS Outcome 1 Program 1.5

Delivery strategy:

› Overseeing and participating in the arrangements for the regulation of uranium mining in the Alligator Rivers Region consistent with the *Environmental Protection (Alligator Rivers Region) Act 1978*

Performance criteria	Target			
	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Number of times water quality in the Alligator Rivers Region exceeds statutory limits	0	As for 2019–20		
Biological community structure in the Alligator Rivers Region	No significant change to dissimilarity values (over time or compared to background levels)	As for 2019–20		

Rationale:
The Department's role, through the Supervising Scientist, is to ensure that people and the environment remain protected from the effects of uranium mining. This includes in the Alligator Rivers Region, which is recognised for its significant heritage values.

Biological, chemical and radiological data are collected and assessed to ensure that environmental management systems are effective and appropriate for preventing impacts to biodiversity and ecosystems.

Data sources:
Data maintained in databases held by the Department and published annually in the Supervising Scientist Annual Technical Report series www.environment.gov.au/science/supervising-scientist

Intended result: Protect and restore water-dependent ecosystems in the Murray–Darling Basin through the management and use of Commonwealth environmental water

Relates to PBS Outcome 1 Program 1.3

Delivery strategy:

› Funding, managing, monitoring and reporting on Commonwealth environmental watering activities

Performance criterion:
Protect and restore water-dependent ecosystems and their functions in the Murray–Darling Basin

Target:
Water dependent ecosystems are protected and restored

✓ *means this measure is being used to measure progress against the target in this year*

Yearly measures against target	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Commonwealth environmental water contribution to:				
› the restoration of the hydrological regime which includes relevant flow components set out in the Basin Plan (section 8.51(1)(b))	✓	✓	✓	✓
› hydrological connectivity between the river and floodplain and between hydrologically connected valleys	✓	✓	✓	✓

Rationale:
The target is to assess whether the Australian Government's management of environmental water achieves expected water flow and connectivity outcomes that underpin ecosystem functions of water-dependent systems.

Data sources:
Commonwealth Environmental Water Office long-term intervention monitoring project, and data from other environmental water managers (notably state and Australian Government agencies involved in the Murray–Darling Basin Authority's Living Murray program)

Target:
Contribute to flushing of salt from the Murray–Darling Basin into the Southern Ocean

✓ *means this measure is being used to measure progress against the target in this year*

Yearly measure against target	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Murray–Darling Basin salt export: volume of flow and salt load (tonnes) over the Lower Lakes barrages	✓	✓	✓	✓

Rationale:
The target is to ensure that the Australian Government continues its management of salt exports from the wetlands and floodplains of the Murray–Darling Basin to maintain the health of the ecosystem and water quality in line with international obligations.

Data sources:
Commonwealth Environmental Water Office long-term intervention monitoring project (methodology: www.environment.gov.au/water/cewo/publications/cewo-ltim-standard-methods), short-term intervention monitoring, and data from other state and Commonwealth agencies (e.g. from the Murray–Darling Basin Authority's Living Murray program)

Intended results:

Manage Australia's obligations under the Ramsar Convention

Improve the knowledge of, and inform decision-making on, the impacts to and management of water-dependent ecosystems consistent with international and national obligations

Relates to PBS Outcome 1 Program 1.3

Delivery strategies:

- Undertaking research, conducting assessments, compiling information and providing advice to improve the management of water-dependent ecosystems, including Ramsar wetlands
- Representing Australia and, where applicable, the views of the Oceania region, at Ramsar Convention meetings

Performance criterion:
Australia's priority wetlands are identified, conserved and protected

Target:
Ramsar Information Sheets for Wetlands of International Importance listed under the Ramsar Convention (Ramsar sites) are prepared and updated, and include appropriate descriptions of the ecological character of the sites and threats to the sites

✓ *means this measure is being used to measure progress against the target in this year*

Yearly measures against target	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Ramsar Information Sheet updates completed for 10 additional Ramsar sites	✓			
Ramsar Information Sheet updates completed for 8 additional Ramsar sites		✓	✓	✓

Rationale:
This target will demonstrate that sound information is available to inform decisions relating to Ramsar site management (including management of threats, decisions on developments referred under the EPBC Act, and management of environmental watering), helping to maintain and enhance the ecological character of Ramsar sites.

Data sources:
Six-monthly reports by Commonwealth and state/territory members of the Wetlands and Aquatic Ecosystems Sub-Committee on the status of RIS updates, and Australian Wetlands Database, which includes a link to a PDF of the latest RIS for each Ramsar site www.environment.gov.au/water/wetlands/australian-wetlands-database

Intended result: Development is ecologically sustainable

Relates to PBS Outcome 1 Program 1.5

Delivery strategy:

› Undertaking individual and strategic assessments and approvals and implementing a risk-based approach to compliance and enforcement activities under the EPBC Act and the *Environment Protection (Sea Dumping) Act 1981*

Performance criterion	Target			
	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Percentage of non-compliant projects that cause unapproved environmental harm	Review baseline compliance of audited approved actions	Reduction of non-compliant projects causing environmental harm		

Rationale:
The Department is responsible for ensuring our regulatory systems are effective and efficient and that they deliver the benefit to the community that the Government and Parliament intended. The Department identifies annual compliance priorities that are set out in our compliance plan. This performance criterion will measure our compliance activities in relation to ecologically sustainable development.

Data sources:
Data held by the Department: audit/compliance tracking spreadsheet, and quarterly key performance indicators spreadsheet

Intended result: The environment and people are not harmed by waste, chemicals or pollutants

Relates to PBS Outcome 1 Program 1.5

Delivery strategy:

› Overseeing and participating in the arrangements for the regulation of uranium mining in the Alligator Rivers Region consistent with the *Environmental Protection (Alligator Rivers Region) Act 1978*

Performance criterion	Target			
	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
The annual radiation dose to members of the public remains below the statutory limit	Annual radiation dose to the public remains below 1 mSv	As for 2019–20		

Rationale:
The Department's role, through the Supervising Scientist, is to ensure that people and the environment remain protected from the effects of uranium mining. This includes in the Alligator Rivers Region, which is recognised for its significant heritage values.

Radiological data are collected and assessed to ensure that environmental management systems are effective and appropriate for preventing impacts to human health.

Data source:
Radiation data collected by Energy Resources Australia and supplied to the Supervising Scientist

Relates to PBS Outcome 1 Program 1.6

Delivery strategy:

› Delivery of legislative functions, key priorities and reforms in relation to environmental health, including by coordinating the National Waste Policy, administering product stewardship programs and hazardous waste legislation, developing a cooperative framework and Commonwealth legislation to manage industrial chemicals of concern, and coordinating efforts across the Australian Government and with other jurisdictions on policy approaches to address PFAS contamination.

Performance criteria	Target			
	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Levels of chemicals or wastes of concern in the environment	Establish baseline for some chemicals or wastes; establish trends for other chemicals	Improvement relative to baseline		
Human health impacts caused by chemicals or wastes of concern in the environment	Establish baseline	Improvement relative to baseline		
Access for all Australians to timely, high-quality data on emissions and transfers of listed pollutants	National Pollutant Inventory data published by 31 March each year	As for 2019–20		

Rationale:

Some chemicals and wastes can cause environmental damage if not managed. Once released into the environment, they can cause harm to animals such as fish, birds and insects, as well as to soil microbes and plants. They can also have flow-on effects on human health.

The success of regulatory interventions or standards-setting in reducing exposure to chemicals and wastes can be established by measuring the amounts of these substances in the environment over time. Responsibility for managing chemicals and wastes is complex, and some components rest with multiple Commonwealth, state, territory and local government agencies. While the Department does not have primary responsibility, we contribute to assessment and management of chemicals and wastes through a range of roles, including as the lead Australian agency for international agreements to reduce or eliminate some chemicals.

The National Pollutant Inventory fulfils Australia's international obligation under the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Recommendation of the Council on Implementing Pollutant Release and Transfer Registers.

Data sources:

Environmental specimen bank created by the Department as part of a pilot monitoring program from 2009 to 2015 which measured chemicals of concern in air, people and water treatment systems

Data from the National Dioxins Program which the Department ran from 2001 to 2004 www.environment.gov.au/protection/chemicals-management/dioxins

Established baselines for some chemicals of concern in some locations and in some media, like air and blood (repeat sampling is needed to determine trends over time)

Information for 2013 on the effects of environmental air quality on human mortality and hospital admissions https://soe.environment.gov.au/theme/built-environment/topic/2016/increased-pollution#built-environment-5866

National Pollutant Inventory www.npi.gov.au

CLIMATE CHANGE PURPOSE:
Develop and implement a national response to climate change

Sustainable Development Goals

Intended result: Shape the global response to climate change

Relates to PBS Outcome 2 Programs 2.1 and 2.3

Delivery strategies:

- With the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and other partners, engage in international negotiations under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the Montreal Protocol and other relevant bodies to advance Australia's national interests
- Implement the Paris Agreement and related emissions reporting commitments for Australia, and assist other countries to develop their national inventory systems
- Contribute to the development and national implementation of greenhouse gas estimation methods

Performance criterion:
Australia contributes to an effective global response to climate change

Target:
Australia's national interests are well represented in the Paris Rulebook and frameworks for international markets
✓ *means this measure is being used to measure progress against the target in this year*

Yearly measure against target	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Australia's domestic policy priorities are reflected in agreed elements of the Paris Rulebook	✓	✓	✓	✓

Rationale:
The Department provides technical advice in the international negotiations and on the rules that affect our national interest.

Data sources:
UNFCCC decisions and domestic policy documents

Intended result: Achieve Australia's greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets

Relates to PBS Outcome 2 Programs 2.1 and 2.3

Delivery strategies:

- Implement programs, policies and regulations in relation to domestic emissions reduction
- Collaborate with the Clean Energy Regulator (and other relevant agencies) to implement the Climate Solutions Package, the Safeguard Mechanism, the National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Scheme and the Renewable Energy Target
- Support uptake of carbon neutral certification
- Develop the National Strategy for Electric Vehicles to plan and manage the transition to new vehicle technology and infrastructure
- Encourage the development and deployment of clean energy technology innovation
- Provide governance and policy oversight of the Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA) and the Clean Energy Finance Corporation

Performance criterion:
Australia is on track to meet its 2020 Kyoto Protocol target and Paris Agreement targets, and the economy is well positioned to deliver on climate commitments for 2030 and beyond

✓ *means this measure is being used to measure progress against the target in this year*

Target:
The Department tracks Australia's emissions profile and implements policies and programs that contribute to reducing Australia's greenhouse gas emissions

Yearly measures against target	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Trends in Australia's emissions and projected emissions are on track to meet commitments	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tracking against legislated large-scale renewable energy target of 33,000 GWh of eligible electricity generation in 2020	✓	✓		
Tracking of Australian Government expenditure on clean energy research and development against 2015 levels (target: $216 million by 2020)	✓	✓		

Rationale:
As a signatory to the UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement, Australia has committed to emissions reduction targets for 2020 and 2030. Departmental initiatives contribute to emissions reduction.

Expenditure on research and development primes the technology pipeline to bring forward technologies needed beyond 2030 for deeper emissions reduction.

Data sources:
National Inventory Report, Quarterly Update of Australia's National Greenhouse Gas Inventory, and Australia's emissions projections and reporting to the UNFCCC

Clean Energy Regulator annual administrative reports

Data from research and development funding organisations (e.g. ARENA and Department of Industry, Innovation and Science)

Intended result: Provide guidance, support and information to increase the resilience of Australian Government operations and activities to climate change impacts, and assist businesses and communities to manage their climate risks

Relates to PBS Outcome 2 Program 2.2

Delivery strategies:

- Working with Australian Government agencies to improve understanding and consideration of climate risk to government operations, programs, and policies
- Working with science agencies and decision-makers to ensure climate science and information underpins effective responses to climate and extreme weather risks, including in the energy sector

Performance criterion:
Effective management of climate risk and effective adaptation action by Commonwealth agencies and state and territory governments

Target:
Australian Government agencies effectively manage climate risk
✓ *means this measure is being used to measure progress against the target in this year*

Yearly measure against target	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Number of departments mapping climate risks and implementing climate risk strategies	✓	✓	✓	✓

Rationale:
The Department is providing support (in the form of information and guidance) to government agencies, which are responsible for the management of climate-related risks in their operations, investments, programs and policies.

Data sources:
Work plan tracking; portfolio annual reports; climate risk strategies; information provided by agencies at meetings; and minutes of the Australian Government Disaster and Climate Resilience Reference Group, the National Climate Science Advisory Committee and other climate science advisory groups

ENERGY PURPOSE:
Support the reliable, affordable, sustainable and secure operations of energy markets

Sustainable Development Goals

Intended result: Lower energy bills for consumers

Relates to PBS Outcome 4 Program 4.1

Delivery strategies:

- Supporting Snowy 2.0
- Progressing the Underwriting New Generation Investments program
- Investigating options for improving energy supply in North and Central Queensland
- Accelerating development of a wholesale gas market that provides improved signals for investment and supply, while ensuring efficient transportation of gas supply and continuing to put downward pressure on gas prices
- Implementation of the default market offer for standing offer customers

Performance criteria	Target			
	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Wholesale electricity price in the National Energy Market	Progress towards wholesale price < $70 per MWh	Progress towards wholesale price < $70 per MWh	< $70 per MWh by end 2021	As for 2021–22
Domestic market gas prices	Domestic gas market prices lower than liquefied natural gas (LNG) netback price*	As for 2019–20		
Retailers' standing offer prices do not exceed default market offer	Retailers' compliance	As for 2019–20		

Rationale:
Lower wholesale electricity and gas prices will contribute directly to lower energy bills. The development of business cases for reliable and affordable energy supplies for commercial and industrial customers will assist industries to remain competitive.

*LNG netback price is a measure of an export parity price that a gas supplier can expect to receive for exporting its gas. It is calculated by taking the price that could be received for LNG and subtracting or 'netting back' the costs incurred by the supplier to convert the gas to LNG and ship it to the destination port.[1]

Data sources:
Australian Energy Market Operator data dashboard, Australian Competition and Consumer Commission LNG netback price series, Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) Electricity Retail Code webpage

1 Gas inquiry 2017–2020 LNG netback price series www.accc.gov.au/regulated-infrastructure/energy/gas-inquiry-2017-2020/lng-netback-price-series accessed 26 June 2019

Delivery strategies:

- Administering the *Greenhouse and Energy Minimum Standards Act 2012*, the *Building Energy Efficiency Disclosure Act 2010* and the Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme
- Supporting households, businesses and industry to make more energy efficient choices and reduce energy use

Performance criterion	Target			
	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
National energy intensity	Improvement in national energy intensity relative to 2015–16	As for 2019–20		

Rationale:
Improvements in energy efficiency lowers energy costs by enabling us to produce the same output or services with less energy. An improvement in energy intensity (energy consumption / gross domestic product) is a proxy for energy efficiency improvements at the national level.

Data source:
Department's Australian Energy Statistics Table B, updated annually

Intended result: Australia's energy supplies are reliable

Relates to PBS Outcome 4 Program 4.1

- **Delivery strategies:**
- Supporting Snowy 2.0
- Implementing the Retailer Reliability Obligation in the National Electricity Market
- Implementing the Regional and Remote Communities Fund and the Underwriting New Generation Investments program
- Investigating options for improving energy supply in North and Central Queensland
- Supporting timely investment in transmission infrastructure consistent with the Australian Energy Market Operator's recommendations through the Priority Transmission Taskforce
- Monitor risks to energy supply through the National Energy Security Assessment

Performance criteria	Target			
	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
National Electricity Market Reliability Standard	The reliability standard is met	As for 2019–20		
Domestic gas market is in supply-demand balance	Australian Domestic Gas Security Mechanism (ADGSM) is not triggered	As for 2019–20		
Liquid fuel market is in supply-demand balance	Liquid Fuel Emergency Act is not triggered	As for 2019–20		
Timely delivery of Integrated System Plan (ISP) transmission projects	Projects delivered in line with ISP timetable	As for 2019–20		

Rationale:
Achieving the reliability standard demonstrates that at least 99.998% of demand has been met. If the gas and fuel markets have sufficient supply to meet demand, the ADGSM and the *Liquid Fuel Emergency Act 1984* will not need to be triggered. Timely planning, approval and construction of transmission infrastructure identified in the Integrated System Plan improves system reliability and security.

Data sources:
Australian Energy Market Commission Annual Market Performance Review; ministerial determination issued under *Customs (Prohibited Exports) Regulations 1958*; Australian Energy Market Operator Integrated System Plan

Delivery strategy: › Implementing a phased approach to return to compliance with the International Energy Agency (IEA) stockholding obligation				
Performance criterion	**Target**			
	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Australia's International Energy Agency stockholding obligation	IEA members accept Australia's strategy for return to compliance	Implement plan and progress towards compliance	As for 2020–21	
Rationale: The International Energy Agency stockholding obligation requires member countries to hold oil stocks equivalent to 90 days of net imports. Australia publicly reports on its stocks in days of net imports every month.				
Data source: Department's Australian Petroleum Statistics, published monthly				

ANTARCTICA PURPOSE:
Advance Australia's strategic, scientific and environmental interests in the Antarctic

Sustainable Development Goals

Intended result: Strengthen Australia's leadership in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean, including by conducting world-leading science, promoting environmental best practice, and developing economic, educational and collaborative opportunities

Relates to PBS Outcome 3 Program 3.1

Delivery strategy:

› Implementing the Australian Antarctic Strategy and 20 Year Action Plan

Performance criterion:
Antarctica and the Southern Ocean are protected, valued and understood

Target:
Australian Antarctic Strategy and 20 Year Action Plan is implemented in accordance with stated timeframes and priorities

✓ *means this measure is being used to measure progress against the target in this year*

Yearly measures against target	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Year 5 activities on track	✓			
Year 5 activities achieved		✓		
Strategy and action plan reviewed Year 10 activities on track as appropriate			✓	✓

Rationale:
This target measures performance against the public commitments set out in the Australian Antarctic Strategy and 20 Year Action Plan, which seek to protect Australia's national Antarctic interests.

Data sources:
Australian Antarctic Strategy and 20 Year Action Plan tracking tables (updated annually); and whole-of-government inter-departmental committee

Target: Scientific research conducted in Antarctica and the Southern Ocean is internationally recognised and conducted in accordance with the Australian Antarctic Science Strategic Plan ✓ *means this measure is being used to measure progress against the target in this year*				
Yearly measures against target	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Number of institutions collaborating in the Australian Antarctic Program (target: average of at least 100 over previous 5 years)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Number of scientific publications published in peer-reviewed journals (target: average of at least 100 over previous 5 years)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Rationale: This target demonstrates international collaboration and research leadership in the Australian Antarctic Program, underpinning Australia's role in the Antarctic Treaty System.				
Data sources: Reports by Australian Antarctic Science Program chief investigators and other sources, recorded on the Australian Antarctic Division's publication database				

SCIENCE, INFORMATION AND RESEARCH ACTIVITY

Sustainable Development Goals

Intended result: Improve understanding of Australia's environment and inform environmental decision-making through collaborative research and enhanced discovery of, access to and use of environmental information

Relates to PBS Outcome 1 Program 1.2

Delivery strategy:

› Providing information to assist decision-makers to understand, manage and conserve Australia's environment, including through a national approach to environmental-economic accounting

Performance criterion:
Data and information generated by the Department are used by stakeholders and/or support evidence-based decision-making

Target:
National Environmental Science Program (NESP) projects deliver collaborative, practical and applied research to inform decision-making and/or on-ground action
✓ *means this measure is being used to measure progress against the target in this year*

Yearly measure against target	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Completed NESP projects* inform policy or management action, with a target of at least one user in all cases *Projects include those from all 6 hubs and emerging priorities funding	✓	✓	N/A—the current NESP concludes in June 2021	

Rationale:
The primary purpose of NESP is to deliver collaborative, practical and applied research to inform decision-making and on-ground action.

Data source:
Annual review of research utilisation through annual survey of research users

Target:
National environmental-economic accounts are developed, publicly released and used by decision-makers
✓ *means this measure is being used to measure progress against the target in this year*

Yearly measures against target	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
First phase national land and waste accounts published The ecosystem accounts case studies developed	✓			
First phase national land and waste accounts and experimental ecosystem accounts are reviewed and refined based on consultation and testing for policy suitability Scoping, design and development of second phase accounts has commenced		✓		
Continued expansion and refinement of national environmental-economic accounts			✓	✓

Rationale:
The production of core national environmental-economic accounts will support evidence-based decisions by tracking stocks and flows in important environmental assets, and by allowing the interactions between the environment and the economy to be observed and better understood.

Data source:
Internal reporting on progress through Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

Intended result: Improve the knowledge of, and inform decision-making on, the environmental impacts of unconventional gas and coal mining development

Relates to PBS Outcome 1 Program 1.2

Delivery strategy:

- Providing data and information to decision-makers and the community that addresses critical gaps in the scientific understanding of the environmental impacts of unconventional gas and large coal mining development

Performance criterion:
Data and information generated by the Department are used by stakeholders and/or support evidence-based decision-making

Target:
Geological and bioregional assessments (GBAs) are completed for the Cooper, Isa and Beetaloo regions by June 2021 to inform decision-makers and the community

✓ *means this measure is being used to measure progress against the target in this year*

Yearly measures against target	2019–20	2020–21	2021–22	2022–23
Stage 2 baseline synthesis reports for the 3 GBA regions published at www.bioregionalassessments.gov.au Analysis work to underpin Stage 3 impact and risk analysis reports for GBA regions 80% complete Stage 3 progress reports 1 and 2 submitted to Program Implementation Board Up to 6 user panel meetings hosted	✓			
Stage 3 impact and risk analysis reports for GBA regions published at www.bioregionalassessments.gov.au		✓	N/A—program completes June 2021	

Rationale:
Geological and bioregional assessments directly inform strategic assessments under the EPBC Act, resulting in regulatory efficiency and regional-scale approvals that facilitate new gas to the East Coast Gas Market.

Data sources:
Broad-ranging environmental data from industry and governments to be collected and reported by the program (for use under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International Licence), and Alluvium Consulting's independent monitoring and evaluation of the program, including consideration of how program data/information will be used by stakeholders to support decision-making

Appendix B: Mapping the Department's purposes to the outcomes and programs in the Portfolio Budget Statements 2019–20

Portfolio budget statements		Corporate plan
Outcomes	**Programs**	**Purposes**
Outcome 1: Conserve, protect and sustainably manage Australia's biodiversity, ecosystems, environment and heritage through research, information management, supporting natural resource management, establishing and managing Commonwealth protected areas, and reducing and regulating the use of pollutants and hazardous substances.	**Program 1.1:** Sustainable Management of Natural Resources and the Environment	**Environment and Heritage:** Conserve, protect and sustainably manage our environment and heritage
	Program 1.3: Commonwealth Environmental Water	
	Program 1.4: Conservation of Australia's Heritage and the Environment	
	Program 1.5: Environmental Regulation	
	Program 1.6: Management of Hazardous Wastes, Substances and Pollutants	
Outcome 2: Reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions, adapt to the impacts of climate change, contribute to effective global action on climate change, and support technological innovation in clean and renewable energy, through developing and implementing a national response to climate change.	**Program 2.1:** Reducing Australia's Greenhouse Gas Emissions	**Climate Change:** Develop and implement a national response to climate change
	Program 2.2: Adapting to Climate Change	
	Program 2.3: Renewable Energy Technology Development	
Outcome 3: Advance Australia's strategic, scientific, environmental and economic interests in the Antarctic region by protecting, administering and researching the region.	**Program 3.1:** Antarctic Science, Policy and Presence	**Antarctica:** Advance Australia's strategic, scientific and environmental interests in the Antarctic
Outcome 4: Support the reliable, sustainable and secure operations of energy markets through improving Australia's energy efficiency, performance and productivity for the community.	**Program 4.1:** Energy	**Energy:** Support the reliable, affordable, sustainable and secure operations of energy markets
Supports all other purposes and outcomes:		
Cross-cutting Science, Information and Research activity relates to Outcome 1	**Program 1.2:** Science, Information and Research	Relates to 'Environment and Heritage' and supports all other purposes

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