

NATIONAL CARBON DIVISION COMMITTEE

MEETING

Monday 16 March 2026

2.00pm - 3.00pm AEST

Via Zoom

MINUTES

1. Welcome & apologies

Attendees: Henry Anning, Gayle Sloan, Julien Gastaldi, Phil Carbins, Paul Lightbody, Marina Wagner, Megan Surawski and Lisa Lepore.

Apologies: Jeff Maguire, Tiana Nairn, and Jonathan Beckett.

2. Minutes of the previous meetings

The meeting minutes of 8 December 2025 were circulated without comment and thereby considered a true and accurate record.

3. Issues for discussion

i. ACCU Methods update:

2025 LFG Method

- Smaller landfills are enthusiastic, though their overall impact may be limited as the method has only been in place since December 2025. There is potential for smaller landfills to serve as strong “poster examples” for ACCU participation.
- The current method generates more ACCUs, so larger landfills should carefully assess their options, as most operators would receive fewer ACCUs under the revised method.
- NSW EPA funding: \$38M in LEAP funding has been allocated for project officers to engage with regional landfills to improve landfill gas capture. Pending the EPA restructure, this should be revisited to improve effectiveness. However, the interaction between ACCUs, the “20 million trees” initiative, and *Waste Less Recycle More* funding, needs to be considered- noting government concerns about potential double dipping.
- Tasmanian landfills align well with the “regional” category.

Safeguard Mechanism

The group discussion following the December industry roundtable and upcoming review covered the following points:

- No further action required at this stage from the sector. The department noting they have received the feedback and will now refine and develop policy options.
- Consultation on the eligibility of landfills to receive SMCs is expected in 2026, the timing of any changes as a result of the consultation will depend on what is required.
- The department will strive to provide certainty before the 2026-27 review, recognising that it may extend into 2026-27.
- The department is happy to continue to meet to discuss issues.

ERAC Scope of Work for 2026

- Seems to be association led
- [AWT method remake](#) update – proponent led by ARRC is kicking off and is the first method remaking done as proponent led.
 - The technology may consider composting – unclear if EfW will be considered (given feedback in previous reviews pushed the method continuation initially with a second reiteration to then include EfW).
 - Noted that Department advice is to look at the staging – hopeful technology agnostic in stage 1 but method is technology driven – technically is “activity driven” but then you have to be specific about the activity.

- Noted that progress will be slow as still needs to go through DCCEEW and potentially double handling after proponent led
- [Beef Cattle Herd Management Method](#) is being developed by Meat and Livestock Australia
- The group discussed that 'Applying Compost on Salt Carbon Projects' and 'Transport Efficiency' (names may be indicative) methods are being considered, but progress and development timeframes are uncertain.
- SSOW Method expiring this month. The method only generated ~20,000 credits over 10 years – slow uptake and predominantly by Woolworths. Additionality, newness and legal rights was hard for proponents to prove and then the pay off was for very little ACCUs.

ii. WMRR Submissions Pipeline (carbon)

- *Safeguard Method Review consultation – expected soon* (discussed above)
- Upcoming NGERs review – *expected soon*
 - The group understands it may include additional landfill gas method, a change to 75% capture rate for landfill gas (?), and more about a zero rating for biogas
 - The Fuel discussion will impact how prioritised this
- Potential consultation on Low Carbon fuel policy
 - Bioenergy Conference discussed fuel security so there may be policy out in the next 12 months in response – if there is incentive for low carbon fuel approach looking at California model with lifecycle approach (more like Guarantee of Origin) rather than ACCUs.
 - \$1.1 billion to low carbon fuels last year (SAF, renewable diesel) – how carbon is treated through that system is critical – Department is looking at it. The logic is based in understanding that you're avoiding from landfill and avoiding methane by clearing land to grow an 'energy crop'. Already discussions around carbon projects displacing agricultural land.
 - The following table shows methane is in GWP.

IPCC Global Warming Potential (GWP) values relative to CO₂

Common chemical name or industrial designation	Chemical formula	GWP values for 100-year time horizon		
		Fourth Assessment Report (AR4)	Fifth Assessment Report (AR5)	Sixth Assessment Report (AR6)
Major Greenhouse Gases				
Carbon dioxide	CO ₂	1	1	1
Methane – non-fossil	CH ₄	25	28	27.0
Methane – fossil	CH ₄	N/A	30	29.8
Nitrous oxide	N ₂ O	298	265	273
Nitrogen trifluoride	NF ₃	17,200	16,100	17,400
Sulfur hexafluoride	SF ₆	22,800	23,500	24,300
Hydrofluorocarbons (includes unsaturated hydrofluorocarbons)*				

iii. Updated on recent submissions

- [2026 Review of the ACCU Scheme](#) (8 December 2025) - '[listening report](#)' released

iv. Market overview

- Carbon price sitting around \$36-38 flattening (stagnant). The following comments were made:
 - Some nervousness around the new methods coming on board but noting they take 5 years generally to roll out. Issue of direct competition from SGM credits.
 - Fuel security and energy security may not help driving carbon prices.
 - Impact of the reverse auction, and early exit of the scheme – might erode the notional floor of approx. \$28.

5. Other business

- [Carbon eyes](#) – a new AI carbon data website was recommended by the Chair for the Division to take a look at.

6. Next meeting

Monday 20 April 2026