

# Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction (Council Member) Appointment 2021 (No 2)

Disallowable instrument DI2021–291

made under the

Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010, s 20 (Membership)

## EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

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### Introduction

This explanatory statement relates to the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction (Council Member) Appointment 2021 (No 2)* as presented to the Legislative Assembly. It has been prepared in order to assist the reader of the disallowable instrument and to help inform debate on it. It does not form part of the disallowable instrument and has not been endorsed by the Assembly.

The Statement must be read in conjunction with the disallowable instrument. It is not, and is not meant to be, a comprehensive description of the disallowable instrument. What is said about a provision is not to be taken as an authoritative guide to the meaning of a provision, this being a task for the courts.

### Overview

The *Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010 (the Act)* section 20 (Membership) provides for the appointment to the Climate Change Council (**Council**) of suitably qualified members of the community to provide advice to the Minister on matters relating to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation to climate change. The appointment for the non-public employee members of the Council is by way of a disallowable instrument which must be notified on the Legislation Register and tabled in the Legislative Assembly under the *Legislation Act 2001 (Legislation Act)*.

Section 20 (3) of the Act provides that the Minister may appoint a person as a member to the Council only if satisfied that the person is committed to addressing climate change and has knowledge and experience in an area relevant to the operation of the Act.

## **Appointment**

The disallowable instrument appoints Dr Arnagretta Hunter as a member of the Council. Dr Hunter is not a public servant. Dr Hunter is appointed for the period 1 February 2022 until 31 January 2025.

Dr Hunter is appointed to the Council to represent the community's interest in climate change and has a broad range of skills and knowledge relating to addressing, or adapting to, climate change.

Dr Hunter has been a consultant physician and cardiologist since 2008. Dr Hunter is an academic and advocate working across clinical medicine, health research and advocacy in public policy to address complex challenges particularly relating to climate change. She has skills across medicine, political science and communications. Dr Hunter has made public presentations as well as publishing articles and academic papers on climate and health issues since 2008.

Dr Hunter is dedicated to understanding the health impacts of climate change, the advantages of working with communities on complex problems and the co-benefits of social change. Dr Hunter won the Sydney Sax medal (AHHA) as chair of Bushfire Impact Working Group in 2020 for contributions to public health in Australia and Physician Educator of the Year in 2018. Dr Hunter was also a co-coordinator of a Breakfast Series for Women in Climate Change, an ongoing series of events bringing together ACT community and leaders to discuss impacts and solutions to climate change and environmental challenges.

The appointment has been made by the Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction. The Minister consulted the Standing Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity in accordance with section 228 (Consultation with appropriate Assembly committee) of the Legislation Act. Any response from the Standing Committee was incorporated as appropriate.

A Regulatory Impact Statement (*RIS*) is not required for this disallowable instrument as it is unlikely to impose appreciable costs on the community (section 34 (1) of the Legislation Act). Further, in accordance with section 36 (1) (b) of the Legislation Act, a RIS is not necessary as the matter does not operate to the disadvantage of anyone by adversely affecting the person's rights or imposing liabilities on the person.

The Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety (Legislative Scrutiny Role) terms of reference require consideration of human rights impacts, among other matters. In this case, no human rights are impacted.