

Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction (Council Chair) Appointment 2025

Disallowable instrument DI2025–204

made under the

Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010, s 21 (Chair)

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Introduction

This explanatory statement relates to the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction (Council Chair) Appointment 2025* as presented to the Legislative Assembly. It has been prepared in order to assist the reader of the disallowable instrument. It does not form part of the disallowable instrument and has not been endorsed by the Legislative 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

Section 16 of the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010* (the **Act**) establishes the Climate Change Council (the **council**). Section 20 of the Act provides for the appointment to the 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.

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.

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* (the **Legislation Act**).

Section 21 of the Act requires the Minister to appoint a member of the council to be the chair of the council.

Appointment

This disallowable instrument appoints Dr Arnagretta Hunter as the chair of the council.

Dr Arnagretta Hunter is appointed for the period 21 July 2025 until 20 July 2028.

Dr Hunter is appointed to the council for her expertise in health and climate change research.

Dr Hunter has been a physician and cardiologist since 2008. She is an academic and advocate working across healthcare, academia, and public policy particularly in climate change and the human future. She is also a Human Future Fellow and a Clinical Senior lecturer at the Australian National University. Her role in healthcare brings with it a passion for a ‘just transition’ understanding that social determinants of health and the environmental variables all deserve attention in effective climate change strategies to create our healthiest communities. Dr Hunter has also played advisory roles in the Bushfire Smoke Data Group (Australian Institute Health & Welfare (AIHW)) and the Bushfire Health Advisory Group (AIHW)). She has also, on an ad-hoc basis, worked as an invited specialist advisor for the Therapeutic Goods Administration, Department of Health. In 2020 she won the Sydney Sax medal (AHHA) as chair of Bushfire Impact Working Group for contributions to public health in Australia and Physician Educator of the Year in 2018. Dr Hunter has made many public presentations as well as publishing articles and academic papers on climate and health issues since 2008.

Dr Hunter is not a public servant.

Consultation

The appointment has been made by the Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water. The Minister consulted the former Standing Committee on Environment, Planning, Transport and City Services (the Standing Committee) in accordance with section 228 of the Legislation Act. Any response from the Standing Committee was incorporated as appropriate.

Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS)

A 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.

Remuneration

As the role of chair is a statutory appointment, remuneration arrangements have been determined by the ACT Remuneration Tribunal. Council members will be paid in accordance with Determination 15 of 2024 Part-time Statutory Office Holders.

Scrutiny Committee terms of reference

The instrument is consistent with the Legislative Assembly's Scrutiny of Bills Committee Terms of Reference. In particular, the instrument:

1. Is made under a ministerial power found in the Act (see section 21 of the Act).
2. Is in accordance with the general objects of the Act under which it is made. The appointment of the chair of the council is integral to the operation of the council and achieving the objects of the Act.
3. Does not unduly trespass on rights previously established by law.
4. Does not make rights, liberties and/or obligations unduly dependent on non-reviewable decisions. The instrument enables formal appointment.