

Australian Capital Territory

Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction (Climate Change Council Chair) Appointment 2021

Disallowable instrument DI2021–152

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 (Climate Change Council Chair) Appointment 2021* 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.

Overview

The *Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010* (the Act) section 20 (Membership) provides for appointments to the ACT 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.

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.

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 Professor Mark Howden as chair of the Council. Professor Howden is not a public servant.

Professor Howden is appointed as chair of the Council for the period 1 July 2021 until 30 June 2022. The end of the appointment term coincides with Professor Howden's period of appointment as a member of the Council, pursuant to the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction (Climate Change Council Member) Appointment 2019 (No 1)*, by which he is appointed to represent climate change science, as per section 20(2)(b)(iii) of the Act.

Professor Howden is Director of the Institute for Climate, Energy & Disaster Solutions at the Australian National University. He is also an Honorary Professor at Melbourne University, a Vice Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and was a member of the former Australian National Climate Science Advisory Committee. He was on the US Federal Advisory Committee for the 3rd National Climate Assessment and contributes to several major national and international science and policy advisory bodies.

Professor Howden has worked on climate variability, climate change, innovation and adoption issues for over 30 years in partnership with many industry, community and policy groups via both research and science-policy roles. Issues he has addressed include agriculture and food security, the natural resource base, ecosystems and biodiversity, energy, water and urban systems.

Professor Howden has over 420 publications of different types. He helped develop both the national and international greenhouse gas inventories that are a fundamental part of the Paris Agreement and has assessed sustainable ways to reduce emissions. He has been a major contributor to the IPCC since 1991, with roles in the Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth and now Sixth Assessment Reports, sharing the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize with other IPCC participants and Al Gore.

The appointment has been made by the Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction. Division 19.3.3 of the *Legislation Act 2001* (Legislation Act) applies as Professor Howden is not a public servant, is appointed for longer than 6 months and will have functions beyond advising the Minister. In accordance with section 228 of the Legislation Act, the Standing Committee on Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity has been consulted. Any response from the Standing Committee was incorporated as appropriate. The appointment is a disallowable instrument by operation of section 229 of the Legislation Act.

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 of imposing liabilities on the person.