

Summary of Australian Government Engagement on the Australian Taxonomy Project: September 2023-June 2024

<i>Climate Adaptation – Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water</i>	
Government attendees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistant Secretary, National Adaptation Policy Office, Climate Change Policy Adaptation and Risk Division
Key insights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASFI introduced the Australian taxonomy project and explained how it intersects with the government’s climate change adaptation agenda. DCCEEW provided an update on the development of a National Adaptation Plan, due for release in 2024. ASFI invited to engage on development process, with a focus on barriers to financing adaptation.
<i>Nature – Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water</i>	
Government attendees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistant Secretary, Global Nature Positive Summit Taskforce, Nature and Finance Markets Division Assistant Secretary, Biodiversity Markets, Nature and Finance Markets Division Director, Financing Solutions for Nature, Global Nature Positive Summit Taskforce, Nature Finance and Markets Division Assistant Director, Financing Solutions for Nature, Global Nature Positive Summit Taskforce, Nature Finance and Markets Division
Key insights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASFI introduced the Australian taxonomy project and explained how it intersects with the government’s nature positive agenda. Discussion on the nature reforms currently underway, the priorities of the Nature Positive Summit Taskforce, and the development of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. Agreed that the Financing Solutions for Nature Section (FSN) would act as a central communication point for ASFI on the taxonomy’s development with respect to the Government’s nature reform agenda. ASFI to provide FSN with regular updates on the taxonomy’s development, particularly with respect to its potential expansion into other environmental objectives.
<i>Biodiversity – Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water</i>	

Government attendees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director, National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan Taskforce, Environmental Policy Integration, Nature Positive Integration Division • Assistant Director, National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan Taskforce, Environmental Policy Integration, Nature Positive Integration Division • Director, Biodiversity Policy (International), Environmental Policy Integration, Nature Positive Integration Division • Director, Regional Planning Initiative, Regional Planning and Landscapes Branch, Nature Positive Integration Division
Key insights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASFI introduced the Australian taxonomy project and explained where it intersects with biodiversity targets and policies. • Discussion focused on the nature and biodiversity reforms taking place in Government. It was agreed that ASFI would touch base with the team again to on the design of DNSH objectives as they relate to biodiversity.
<i>First Nations Heritage – Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water</i>	
Government attendees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Assistant Secretary, Heritage Division • Assistant Secretary, First Nations Heritage Branch, Heritage Division • Assistant Secretary, First Nations Heritage Protection Branch, Heritage Division • Director, First Nations Strategy, First Nations, Portfolio Strategy Division
Key insights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASFI met with the newly established Heritage Branch to learn more about the reform work being done around First Nations heritage and heritage protection. • DCCEEW representatives provided an overview of their work and engagement partners, including the First Nations Cultural Heritage Alliance. • It was agreed that ASFI would continue to engage with the relevant leads over the course of the taxonomy's development as MSS work evolves.
<i>Circular Economy – Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water</i>	
Government attendees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A/g First Assistant Secretary, Circular Economy Division • Director, Circular Economy Policy Section, Waste and Resource Recovery Policy Branch, Circular Economy Division
Key insights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DCCEEW provided advice on policy developments in relation to circular economy objectives and agreed to continue engaging with ASFI on the development of the circular economy headline ambition language and DNSH criteria.
<i>Built Environment – Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water</i>	
Government attendees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistant Secretary, Industrial and Buildings Energy Performance Branch, Energy and Performance Security Division

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistant Director, Commercial Buildings Policy, Industrial and Building Energy Efficiency Branch, Energy Performance and Security Division • Director, Financial Sector Initiatives, Home Ratings and Disclosure Branch, Energy Performance and Security Division • A/g Director, Home Ratings and Disclosure Branch, Energy Performance and Security Division • Director, Commercial Buildings Policy and Disclosure Section • Assistant Secretary, Home Ratings and Disclosures Branch, Energy Performance and Security Division • First Assistant Secretary, Energy Performance and Security Division
Key insights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASFI and its technical team provided an overview of the taxonomy project with a focus on the development of technical screening criteria for the buildings and construction sector. • Participants discussed the types of commercial buildings data that is used by federal and state governments in Australia and could help inform technical criteria, such as the NABERs rating scheme. • Government attendees provided an update on the Australia Building Codes Board emissions modelling for building class and climate zones; and embodied carbon work being done by Infrastructure Australia to baseline information. • Given their technical expertise on and access to key standards, codes and data, Bec Wigglesworth and Louise Brian have been made members of the Taxonomy Advisory Group on Buildings and Construction. • ASFI will continue to engage with the broader team as relevant.
Built Environment – Infrastructure Australia	
Government attendees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chief Project Advisory, Project Advisory and Evaluation • Associate Director, Project Advisory and Evaluation • Associate Director, Policy and Research (Embodied Carbon)
Key insights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASFI and its technical team provided an overview of the taxonomy project with a focus on the development of technical screening criteria for the buildings and construction sector. • Government attendees provided information on the creation and reform of building codes across different Australian states and territories, and an update on research conducted in partnership with CSIRO to estimate and measure the embodied carbon of buildings. • ASFI invited Sandra Qian to join the Taxonomy Advisory Group on Buildings and Construction.
Net Zero Emissions – Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	
Government attendees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistant Secretary, Net Zero Taskforce, Emissions Reduction Division • Director, Strategy Plan, Net Zero Plan and 2035 Target Taskforce, Emissions Reduction Division • Director, Engagement, Agriculture and transport team, Net Zero Plan and 2035 Target Taskforce, Emissions Reduction Division

Key insights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASFI and its technical team provided an overview of the taxonomy project with a focus on the development of technical screening criteria across each of the priority sectors for development. Government attendees provided an overview of the Government's work on sectoral decarbonisation plans, including the timeline for delivery and status of ANZSIC code mapping work. ASFI will continue engaging with this team to support aligned ANZSIC code mapping for the six economic sectors.
<i>Clean Energy – Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water</i>	
Government attendees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistant Secretary, Renewable Energy Superpower Branch, International Climate & Energy Division Director, Clean Energy Industry Analysis Section, International Climate and Energy Division
Key insights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASFI and its technical team provided an overview of the taxonomy project with a focus on the development of technical screening criteria for the electricity sector. Government attendees provided an overview of its work with respect to identifying clean energy opportunities for Australia beyond renewables. Discussion on how the decarbonisation of commodity exports could be relevant for taxonomy development. Government attendees willing to look over taxonomy's ANZSIC coding once drafted, will continue to engage as relevant.
<i>Emissions Data – Clean Energy Regulator</i>	
Government attendees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Climate-related Disclosures Section, Policy, Markets and Data Branch Assistant Manager, Climate-Related Disclosures Section, Policy, Markets and Data Branch
Key insights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASFI met with representatives from the Clean Energy Regulator (CER) to learn about the NGERs and Safeguard data measurement and collection processes. Attendees discussed how NGERs data is collected, measured and used and how NGERs emissions factors could be utilised in the taxonomy. ASFI will continue to engage with the CER on NGERs data, including the team that works on the development of factor assumptions and the team responsible for administering the Safeguard Mechanism.
<i>NGERS – Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water</i>	
Government attendees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Director, Quarterly and Industrial Emissions Section, National Inventory Systems and International Reporting Branch, Emissions Reduction Division Director, National Inventory Section, National Inventory Systems and International Reporting Branch, Emissions Reduction Division

Key insights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASFI met with this area to discuss NGERs data collection and measurement, including the types of measurement and methodology calculations available and for what purpose. ASFI will continue to engage with these representatives to support the development of technical screening criteria.
<i>National Inventory – Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water</i>	
Government attendees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assistant Secretary, National Inventory Systems and International Reporting, Emissions Reduction Division
Key insights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASFI provided an overview of the taxonomy project with a focus on the modelling that would underly the draft TSC. The National Inventory Systems lead provided guidance on whether national inventory system data sources could be utilised to support the taxonomy's development.
<i>Integrated System Plan – Australian Energy Market Operator</i>	
Government attendees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group Manager, System Planning
Key insights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASFI provided an overview of the taxonomy project with a focus on the development of technical screening criteria for the electricity sector. AEMO provided an overview of its modelling work related to determining the energy intensity of the energy sector, which ASFI is seeking for the purpose of setting thresholds for the electricity sector. ASFI will arrange a meeting in late December, post publication of AEMO's ISP2, between its technical experts and AEMO's technical experts on the above.
<i>Hydrogen – Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water</i>	
Government attendees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guarantee of Origin and Trade Section, Hydrogen Strategy Branch, Net-zero Industries Division Assistant Director, Guarantee of Origin and Trade Section, Hydrogen Strategy Branch, Net-zero Industries Division Assistant Manager, Renewable Certificate Schemes, Electricity Markets Branch, Electricity Division
Key insights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attendees provided information on the proposed operation of the Guarantee of Origin Scheme, and design considerations including usability, credibility and interoperability. Discussion on how the voluntary scheme will establish market demand and use cases in the market, and intersection with taxonomy. ASFI's technical team will incorporate relevant departmental resources and continue to engage to support alignment with technical elements of the scheme.
<i>ANZSIC Codes – Australian Bureau of Statistics</i>	
Government attendees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Program Manager, Physical Environment Accounts and Statistics Branch, Economy and Environment Division

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A/g Director, Statistical Standards and Infrastructure Section, Data Integration Services Branch, Statistical Production and Digital Services Division • Statistical Standards and Infrastructure Section, Data Integration Services Branch, Statistical Production and Digital Services Division
Key insights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASFI provided an overview of the taxonomy project with a focus on the development of technical screening criteria across each of the priority sectors for development. • Discussion focused on statistical considerations for technical screening criteria, specifically, the development and use of ANZSIC codes and related measurements. • ASFI to continue engaging with team to ensure methodological alignment where appropriate.
Critical Minerals – Department of Industry, Science and Resources	
Government attendees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manager, Major Commodities Section, International, Trade and National Security Division • Manager, Critical Minerals Office, Minerals and Resources Division • General Manager, Mining Branch, Minerals and Resources Division • A/g General Manager, Resources Strategy Branch, Minerals and Resources Division
Key insights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASFI provided an overview of the taxonomy project with a focus on the development of technical screening criteria for the minerals, mining and metals sector. • Attendees discussed the government's mandate to attract capital to critical minerals in Australia, and provided ASFI with a list of key sources of information/data, including NGERS, facilities report under the Safeguard Mechanism, and the NOUS Group's the Net-zero Mobility Report. • It was agreed that ASFI and the CMO would stay in contact as the screening criteria for the minerals, mining and metals sector develops.
Green Trade and Investment – Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade / ANU	
Government attendees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistant Director, Climate Innovation and Investment Section, International Economics and Green Economy Division • Director, Climate Innovation and Investment Section, International Economics and Green Economy Division • Associate Director (Research), ANU Grand Challenge - Zero-Carbon Energy for the Asia-Pacific • Sir Roland Wilson PhD scholar, ANU/DCCEEW/Lowry Institute
Key insights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendees were provided with an update on green economy mapping previously undertaken by ANU on behalf of DFAT, and an introduction to embedded emissions work being undertaken by the ANU Energy Change Institute. • Green economy research with DFAT focused on green trade; less relevant to finance.
Headline Ambitions – Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water Workshop	

Government attendees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior executive and policy staff from across a range of areas within DCCEEW (many of the participants are already listed above).
Key insights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In January 2024, ASFI convened a workshop with relevant DCCEEW representatives to seek feedback on the draft environmental objective headline ambitions and their alignment with Government policy. This feedback was incorporated into v0.1 of the Australian taxonomy.
Sectoral Decarbonisation Plans – Australian Government Workshop	
Government attendees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senior executive and policy staff from DCCEEW, DISR, DAFF and Treasury.
Key insights	<p>In February 2024, ASFI and Treasury delivered a joint workshop for Australian Government representatives on the intersection between sustainable finance, the Australian taxonomy and the sectoral decarbonisation plans.</p>
NatHERS - Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water	
Government attendees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> DCCEEW (NatHERS)
Key insights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ASFI also met individually with the NatHERS team at DCCEEW in April 2024 to discuss the intersection between their work and the Australian taxonomy for existing residential properties.