

## Comparison of the Department of Climate Change's CPRS White Paper and Green Paper Positions on Assurance

The preferred position put forward in the CPRS green paper and the final position in the CPRS white paper in relation to assurance are compared in the table below. The differences in the positions are highlighted.

White Paper final position - Assurance	Green Paper preferred position - Assurance
<p>Assurance will be carried out in accordance with guidelines made under the <i>National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting System Act, 2007</i>. The Government will finalise the standards (if any) to be referenced in these guidelines after considering submissions made in response to its public consultation paper, <i>National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007</i> and Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme—external audit consultation paper.</p>	<p>Assurance would be carried out in accordance with guidelines made under the <i>National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting System Act</i> and standards to be produced by the Australian Government's Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.</p>
<p>All third-party emissions auditors will be registered to ensure the development of a pool of properly trained and qualified providers. The form and nature of registration (including whether it is conducted by the Government or a non-government body) will be finalised following the consideration of submissions in response to the public consultation paper <i>National Greenhouse and Energy Reporting Act 2007</i> and Carbon Pollution Reduction Scheme—external audit paper.</p>	<p>All third-party emissions auditors will be accredited to ensure the development of a pool of properly trained and qualified providers. The form and nature of accreditation (including whether it is conducted by the Government or a non-government body) would be determined after further consultation, with a view to minimising compliance costs.</p>
<p>Large emitters (obligations under the Scheme of 125,000 t CO<sub>2</sub>-e or more) will be required to have their annual emissions reports assured by an independent third-party prior to their submission.</p>	<p>Large emitters (obligations under the Scheme of 125,000 t CO<sub>2</sub>-e or more) required to have their annual emissions reports assured by an independent accredited third-party prior to their submission.</p>
<p>The Scheme regulator will have powers to conduct assurance audits. The regulator will also have the power to review an annual emissions report for up to four years after its submission, except in the case of fraud, in which case the period will be unlimited.</p>	<p>The Scheme regulator would have powers to conduct assurance audits. The regulator would also have the power to review an annual emissions report for up to four years after its submission, except in the case of fraud, in which case the period would be unlimited.</p> <p>The Government would investigate further the scope to align financial and emissions reporting and verification systems.</p>