We have found there to be some, non-material, misalignment between the climate policy advocacy of the Queensland Resources Council (QRC) and BHP's August 2020 Global Climate Policy Standards.

In November 2021, the QRC advocated in a manner that presented a misleading view of the electricity system in Queensland.

The Findings and Outcomes section of this Report provides further information with respect to our determination to remove suspension of our membership of the QRC effective 1 June 2023.

### Background

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Overview</th>
<th>2022 membership fee</th>
<th>Governance role</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A state-based and sector-specific industry association. It has around 180 full and services members.</td>
<td>US$500,000 – US$1 million¹</td>
<td>Board member</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Policy outcomes

#### Global agreements

The QRC recognises that ‘climate change is a critical global challenge’ and that climate policies ‘must be consistent with Australia's participation in global agreements, including the Paris Agreement’.

#### Paris Agreement goals

The QRC’s position statement supports the aims of the Paris Agreement, ‘action to achieve the commitments under the [Paris Agreement]’ and ‘the [MCA’s] industry ambition to achieve net zero emissions by 2050’. In line with these positions, the QRC has contributed to the development of the Queensland Resource Industry Development Plan; and supported efforts by the Australian and Queensland governments to expand the production of critical minerals in the State.

#### Emissions reduction targets

The QRC’s position statement supports ‘the [MCA’s] industry ambition to achieve net zero emissions by 2050’. While the QRC does not appear to have commented on the emissions reduction targets of either the Federal or State governments during our review period, it has acknowledged the need for action to meet ‘emissions targets’.

#### Least cost abatement

The QRC’s position statement supports market-based approaches that prioritise least cost abatement, maintain international competitiveness, are technology neutral, and ‘deliver a clear, predictable and long-term price signal’. In line with these principles, the QRC has engaged on various climate policies and related issues.

#### Pre-commercial technology

The QRC has advocated for policy measures that support the development and deployment of low emission technologies – in principle and in practice.

#### Enabling the broader transition

The QRC has highlighted the importance of local adaptation planning and supported efforts by the Australian and Queensland Governments to expand the production of critical minerals in the State.

### Guiding principles

#### Balanced

The QRC’s advocacy generally appears to be balanced between upholding the competitiveness of the Queensland mining sector and highlighting the opportunities presented to Queensland by decarbonisation. An illustrative example is the QRC response to the Queensland Government’s Energy and Jobs Plan. The QRC noted that while the plan to achieve 70% renewable energy by 2032 did ‘come with some risk’ and would need to be ‘managed very tightly’, it did provide an ‘enormous opportunity’ for the resources industry, given the sector supplies many of the raw materials needed to build renewable energy infrastructure.

#### Fact-based

In November 2021, the QRC issued a media release that noted: ‘Right now, steel can only be produced commercially by using metallurgical coal, and thermal coal is the only 100 percent reliable way to produce energy in Queensland’. The QRC later updated this release to note that ‘thermal coal and gas are the only 100 percent reliable way to produce energy in Queensland’. Even with this update, the statement presents a misleading view of electricity generation in Queensland, as it overlooks the decades-long role played by hydroelectricity in the State (including the 570 MW Wivenhoe pumped storage plant).

#### Focused

The QRC generally appears to avoid advocacy on issues that may be seen to unduly exacerbate policy tensions.

#### Technology neutral

The QRC generally appears to advocate in favour of technology neutral policy frameworks.

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¹ Fees for the QRC relate to the BHP Mitsubishi Alliance (BMA). BMA is a 50:50 joint venture between BHP and Mitsubishi Development that was formed in 2001.

² BHP suspended its member of the QRC in October 2021, however we continued to meet our obligations under the QRC constitution, which included the payment of membership fees.