

Environment and Communications Legislation Committee

The committee met on Wednesday, 23 May 2012 from 9.01 am to 10.50 pm.

The committee called the:

- department and agencies of the Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio, including the Office of the Supervising Scientist, the Murray-Darling Basin Authority, the National Water Commission and the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office
- agencies of the Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy portfolio including the Special Broadcasting Service (SBS), the Australian Broadcasting Corporation and the Australian Communications and Media Authority (ACMA).

Among other issues, the following matters were discussed:

- reports of discharge into creeks from coal mines in the Greater Blue Mountains World Heritage area
- funding cuts for the Heritage Division of the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities
- revegetation of the Ranger mining site in the Northern Territory
- the listing of koalas as endangered or vulnerable in Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria
- the release of the final Murray-Darling Basin Plan
- impacts on groundwater of coal seam gas extraction
- the award of the Golden Rose for Best of 2012 at the Rose D'Or festival to the SBS series *Go Back to Where You Came From*
- the provision of additional funding to SBS to establish a free-to-air national Indigenous television service
- an award won by ACMA's Cybersmart short film *Tagged*.