



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE
ON CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENT AND THE ARTS**
Inquiry into Australia’s biodiversity in a changing climate

*Chair: Tony Zappia MP
Deputy Chair: Mal Washer MP*

Biodiversity inquiry: public hearing in Canberra

The House Standing Committee on Climate Change, Environment and the Arts is holding a public hearing in Canberra tomorrow, as part of its inquiry into Australia’s biodiversity in a changing climate.

The Director of the Atlas of Living Australia, Dr John La Salle, will appear before the Committee to discuss the importance of the Atlas as a national repository for information about Australia’s plants and animals, and how the Atlas can be used to improve our understanding of Australia’s biodiversity.

The Committee will also hear from Mr Andrew Cox, the President of the Invasive Species Council, about the interactions between invasive species and climate change, and how climate adaptation measures should address the threats from invasive species.

Committee Chair, Tony Zappia, said that ‘the work of the Atlas of Living Australia has been raised by other witnesses at earlier public hearings, and in submissions to this inquiry. The Committee is therefore pleased to be able to meet with representatives of the Atlas of Living Australia, and to hear about how the Atlas can help conserve Australia’s rich biodiversity.’

Mr Zappia added that ‘the Committee is also looking forward to hearing from the Invasive Species Council, and particularly about the measures Australia will need to put in place to prevent new harmful introductions of invasive species due to climate change.’

Details of the public hearing are as follows:

Time: 10.20 am (following a short private Committee meeting)
Date: Thursday, 21 June 2012
Location: Committee Room 1R4, Parliament House, Canberra

10.20 am	Atlas of Living Australia
10.55 am	Invasive Species Council

The public hearing will be broadcast live at: [http://www.aph.gov.au/News and Events/Watch Parliament](http://www.aph.gov.au/News_and_Events/Watch_Parliament).

Further details about the inquiry, including the terms of reference, can be obtained from the Committee’s website at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/ccbio>.

For media comment: please contact the Committee Chair, Mr Tony Zappia, on (02) 6277 4147 (Parliament House) and (08) 8265 3100 (electorate office).
For further information: please contact the secretariat on (02) 6277 4580, email ccea.reps@aph.gov.au or visit the committee’s webpage at <http://www.aph.gov.au/ccea>