



MEDIA RELEASE

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENT AND THE ARTS

Inquiry into climate change and biodiversity

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

Leading climate expert to address biodiversity inquiry

Renowned climate scientist Professor Will Steffen will appear before the House of Representatives Climate Change, Environment and the Arts Committee for a public hearing this Thursday, 13 October 2011. Professor Steffen's appearance will be the first public hearing for the Committee's inquiry into Australia's biodiversity in a changing climate.

The inquiry is examining biodiversity and climate change in relation to nationally important ecosystems, with particular regard to terrestrial, marine and freshwater ecosystems; the role of connectivity between ecosystems; impacts on human communities; and strategies for sustainable resource use and enhancing community engagement.

Committee Chair, Tony Zappia, said that 'while it is well known that Climate Change will have a broad range of impacts on our environment, this inquiry is seeking more specific information about how some of Australia's most unique and biodiverse ecosystems will be affected. It will also examine adaptation techniques that could be more widely deployed by governments and the community to help ecosystems survive under a changing climate.'

'The Committee is pleased to be able to welcome Professor Steffen to appear at its first public hearing for this important inquiry', Mr Zappia added.

Details of the public hearing are as follows:

Time: 11:10 am (following a short private Committee meeting)

Date: Thursday, 13 October 2011

Location: Room 1R4, Parliament House, Canberra

Professor Steffen is Executive Director of the Australian National University (ANU) Climate Change Institute and Co-Director of the Canberra Urban and Regional Futures (CURF) initiative. He also serves as a Climate Commissioner and is on the panel of experts advising the Multi-Party Climate Change Committee. Professor Steffen was the lead author of the 2009 advisory report to the Federal Government, 'Australia's Biodiversity and Climate Change'.

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

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>