



**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*

Committee to visit WA's biodiversity 'hotspot'

The House of Representatives Climate Change, Environment and the Arts Committee will conduct a public hearing in Perth on Monday, 7 November 2011. During its visit to Western Australia, the Committee also plans to visit sites where restorative projects are being undertaken to protect biodiverse ecosystems in response to the challenges of climate change. The visit represents the first public hearing and inspection outside Canberra 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 adaptation, sustainable resource use and enhancing community engagement.

The Committee Chair, Mr Tony Zappia MP, said 'the Committee is pleased to be able to begin the programme of interstate hearings and inspections for this inquiry in Western Australia'.

'Western Australia, in particular the South West, is internationally recognised as one of the most biodiverse regions of the world—a biodiversity "hotspot"—so it is facing unique challenges with respect to climate change adaptation', Mr Zappia added. 'The Committee is looking forward to learning about some of the projects and strategies that are being put in place in WA in response to these challenges'.

Details of the public hearing are as follows:

Time: 9.00 am

Date: Monday, 7 November 2011

Location: Legislative Assembly Committee Room 1, Level 1, 11 Harvest Terrace, West Perth

9.00am	WA Government – Department of Environment and Conservation
9.45am	WA Local Government Association
10.45am	WA Farmers Federation
11.30am	WA Museum
1.00pm	Greening Australia
1.45pm	Centre of Excellence for Climate Change, Woodland and Forest Health

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>