



**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*

Tasmania's unique biodiversity

The House Committee on Climate Change, Environment and the Arts is visiting Tasmania as part of its 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.

During its visit to Tasmania, the Committee will visit sites where restorative projects are being undertaken to protect biodiverse ecosystems in response to the challenges of climate change. The Committee will also hold a public hearing in Hobart.

The Committee Chair, Mr Tony Zappia MP, said 'the Tasmanian Wilderness is a World Heritage listed area. Tasmania has an unusually high proportion of endemic species, and its fauna is of world importance. And with geographic features quite distinct from those of the mainland, managing Tasmania's biodiversity in a changing climate will provide local researchers, policy-makers and land managers with some unique challenges and opportunities. The Committee is looking forward to learning about some of the projects and strategies that are being put in place in Tasmania in response to these challenges.'

Details of the public hearing are as follows:

Time: 9.45 am

Date: Tuesday, 31 January 2012

Location: Committee Room 1, Parliament House, Hobart

9.45 am	Antarctic Climate and Ecosystems Cooperative Research Centre
10.45 am	Associate Professor Neil Holbrook, Dr Julie Davidson, and Laura Purcell
11.30 am	Institute for Marine and Antarctic Studies
1.15 pm	Australian Marine Sciences Association
2.00 pm	CSIRO

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 (08) 8265 3100 (electorate office)

For inquiry 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>