

The Senate

---

Environment and Communications  
References Committee

---

Effectiveness of threatened species and  
ecological communities' protection in  
Australia

August 2013

© Commonwealth of Australia 2013

ISBN 978-1-74229-818-4

# Committee membership

## *Committee members*

Senator Simon Birmingham (LP, SA) (Chair)  
Senator Doug Cameron (ALP, NSW) (Deputy Chair)  
Senator Catryna Bilyk (ALP, TAS)  
Senator the Hon Ron Boswell (NATS, QLD)  
Senator Anne Ruston (LP, SA)  
Senator Larissa Waters (AG, QLD)

## *Participating members*

Senator Richard Di Natale (AG, VIC)  
Senator Christine Milne (AG, TAS)

## *Committee secretariat*

Ms Sophie Dunstone, Acting Secretary  
Ms Toni Matulick, Committee Secretary  
Ms Sophie Power, Principal Research Officer  
Mr Chris Lawley, Senior Research Officer  
Mrs Dianne Warhurst, Administration Officer

## *Committee address*

PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
*Tel:* 02 6277 3526  
*Fax:* 02 6277 5818  
*Email:* [ec.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:ec.sen@aph.gov.au)  
*Internet:* [www.aph.gov.au/senate\\_ec](http://www.aph.gov.au/senate_ec)



# Table of Contents

<b>Committee membership .....</b>	<b>iii</b>
<b>Recommendations .....</b>	<b>vii</b>
<b>Abbreviations and Acronyms .....</b>	<b>xv</b>
<b>Chapter 1 - Introduction and Background.....</b>	<b>1</b>
Conduct of the inquiry .....	1
Report structure .....	1
Acknowledgements .....	2
Background.....	2
State and territory legislative regimes .....	10
Policy and funding arrangements .....	11
Other recent relevant inquiries .....	15
<b>Chapter 2 - Management of the Listing Process.....</b>	<b>25</b>
Committee view.....	52
<b>Chapter 3 - Recovery Planning.....</b>	<b>55</b>
Committee view.....	76
<b>Chapter 4 - Management of key threats to threatened species and ecological communities.....</b>	<b>81</b>
What are the key threats? .....	81
Managing multiple threats.....	97
Listing key threatening processes and threat abatement planning .....	101
Committee view.....	112
<b>Chapter 5 - Critical Habitat and other issues .....</b>	<b>117</b>
Committee view.....	129
Other issues .....	131
Committee view.....	136
<b>Chapter 6 - Policy and funding arrangements.....</b>	<b>139</b>
Committee view.....	165

<b>Chapter 7 - Regulatory arrangements at all levels of government .....</b>	<b>169</b>
Role of state and territory governments .....	169
Environmental assessment processes .....	178
Committee view.....	195
<b>Australian Greens' additional comments .....</b>	<b>199</b>
<b>Appendix 1 - Submissions, tabled documents, additional information and answers to questions taken on notice.....</b>	<b>209</b>
<b>Appendix 2 - Public hearings .....</b>	<b>219</b>