



**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 in the city – inquiry moves to Sydney

The House Committee on Climate Change, Environment and the Arts is holding a public hearing in Sydney on Wednesday 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 Sydney, the Committee members will be visiting the Australian Botanic Garden at Mount Annan, where it will inspect the existing 'Seedbank' facilities and the site of the new 'Plantbank' science and conservation facility.

The Committee will also examine the protected mangroves and restored ecosystems at Sydney Olympic Park, where it expects to learn about the potential of biodiversity conservation within a highly urbanised environment.

The Committee Chair, Mr Tony Zappia MP, said "During its visit to Sydney, the Committee hopes to learn about some of the great work that is being done to protect biodiversity in Australia's largest city, and how this might be affected by the changing climate. We are also hoping to hear about the role of facilities such as the botanic gardens and Sydney Olympic Park in engaging the public in some of the environmental issues facing the whole of Australia."

Details of the public hearing are as follows:

Time: 9.15 am

Date: Wednesday, 28 March 2012

Location: Macquarie Room, NSW Parliament House, Sydney

9.15 am	Australian Museum
10.00 am	Australian Forests and Climate Alliance
11.00 am	Ecological Society of Australia
11.45 am	IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas
12.30 pm	National Parks Association of NSW

The public hearing will be broadcast live at: 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 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>