



**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 inquiry moves to Melbourne

The House Committee on Climate Change, Environment and the Arts is holding a public hearing in Melbourne on Friday as part of its inquiry into Australia's biodiversity in a changing climate. Evidence will be heard from a range of organisations and individuals, including environmental groups and researchers. The Committee will also hear from the Climate and Health Alliance, whose submission to the inquiry focuses on how human populations are likely to be affected by climate change impacts on biodiversity.

During its visit to Melbourne, Committee members will visit the Melbourne Museum. The Committee Chair, Mr Tony Zappia MP, said "The Committee welcomes the opportunity to inspect the Melbourne Museum's collections and facilities. Australian museums have an important role in conserving our biodiversity, through their natural history collections, the research they carry out, and the exhibits they display to help members of the public understand more about Australia's rich biodiversity."

The Committee will also meet with representatives of BirdLife Australia and will inspect some important habitats for shorebirds that are under threat from climate change. Mr Zappia said "Through submissions to the inquiry and the site inspections we have carried out to date, the Committee has heard about the important contribution birdwatchers make to biodiversity conservation, particularly through data collection, conservation programs, and community education activities. The Committee looks forward to meeting with representatives from BirdLife Australia in Melbourne."

Details of the public hearing are as follows:

Time: 9.00 am

Date: Friday, 4 May 2012

Location: Committee Room G6, Parliament of Victoria, 55 St Andrews Place, East Melbourne

9.00 am	Planet Ark
9.45 am	Australian Network of Environment Defenders Offices
10.45 am	BirdLife Australia
11.30 am	Australian Conservation Foundation
1.15 pm	Associate Professor Mark Hovenden, University of Tasmania
2.00 pm	Australian Coastal Society
2.45 pm	Climate and Health Alliance; Australian Psychological Society; Monash Sustainability Institute

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>