



**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*

Climate change in the Top End

The House Committee on Climate Change, Environment and the Arts is visiting the Northern Territory as part of its inquiry into Australia’s biodiversity in a changing climate. During its visit, Committee members will learn more about how future climate change is expected to affect the Top End’s iconic plants, animals and ecosystems, especially in Kakadu National Park.

The Committee will receive briefings on a range of issues from park managers and representatives from local Indigenous communities. Members will hear about issues as diverse as sea level rise, increasingly severe weather events, changes in rainfall and fire patterns, and saltwater intrusion into Kakadu’s precious wetlands.

The Committee will also hold a public hearing in Darwin on Wednesday, where it expects to hear evidence on the effects that climate change across the Territory, and how government and non-government groups are taking steps to protect the local biodiversity.

The Committee Chair, Mr Tony Zappia MP, said “Several submissions to the inquiry have nominated the wetlands of Kakadu National Park as a nationally important ecosystem. The Committee welcomes the opportunity to use Kakadu as a case study as part of its inquiry into the effects of climate change on Australia’s biodiversity.”

Mr Zappia added, “As one of the few sites to be listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Area for both its natural and cultural values, the Committee is certainly very interested to hear how climate change might shape Kakadu in the coming years, and what strategies might be used to protect the local biodiversity.”

Details of the public hearing are as follows:

- Time:** 9.00 am
- Date:** Wednesday, 4 July 2012
- Location:** Litchfield Room, NT Parliament House, Darwin

9.00 am	Northern Territory Government
9.40 am	Territory Natural Resource Management

The public hearing will be broadcast live at: [http://www.aph.gov.au/News and Events/Watch Parliament](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>