

Environment and Communications Legislation Committee

The committee met on Monday, 24 February 2014 from 9.00 am to 10.30 pm.

The committee called the:

- department and agencies of the Environment portfolio, including the Bureau of Meteorology, the Murray-Darling Basin Authority, the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office, the National Water Commission, the Clean Energy Regulator, the Office of the Supervising Scientist, the Director of National Parks, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority and the Climate Change Authority.

Among other issues, the following matters were discussed:

- summer heat wave events, including the number of visits to the Bureau of Meteorology website at the time
- risk assessment processes for riverbanks (impacts of flows on riverbanks)
- the implementation of the Constraints Management Strategy
- the impact on investment in renewable energy projects of any change to the Renewable Energy Target
- the proposed abolition of the Clean Energy Finance Corporation
- coal deposits in the Galilee Basin
- the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility
- deep water fishing licences and impacts
- the Western Australian Government's shark cull program, including the exemption granted under the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, including triggers for the revocation of the exemption
- the Great White Sharks recovery plan
- strategic environmental assessments
- the Great Barrier Reef Climate Change Action Plan
- offshore dumping at Abbot Point, Queensland
- the Caring for our Country program
- diversion of Natural Heritage Trust funds
- the Save the Tasmanian Devil Program
- implementation of the Green Army Programme
- the conduct of reviews by the Climate Change Authority required under its enabling legislation.