

## **Environment and Communications Legislation Committee**

The committee met on Monday, 26 May 2014 from 9 am to 8.58 pm.

The committee called the department and agencies of the Environment portfolio, including the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM), the National Water Commission, the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office, the Murray-Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) and the Clean Energy Regulator.

Among other issues, the following issues were discussed:

- Staffing, budgets, voluntary redundancies and training within the Department, BOM and MDBA
- Grants to, and agreements with, community organisations
- Compensation associated with the review of the Water Act
- Web services and the installation of a supercomputer by BOM
- El Nino weather patterns
- Proposed smartphone weather apps
- The use of volunteers to take water level measurements for more than 100 years
- Water buybacks and sustainable diversion limits in the Murray-Darling Basin
- Regulated areas of the Murray-Darling Basin in South Australia
- The Menindee Lakes Project
- Funding for the Clean Energy Regulator
- The educative role of the Clean Energy Regulator
- The Emissions Reduction Fund
- Renewable energy certificates.