



AUSTRALIAN SENATE
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee
Additional Estimates 2016-17
Monday, 27 February 2017
Daily summary

Here is the summary of today's proceedings in the Environment and Communications Committee Estimates.

The committee met from 9.00am until 9.44pm.

The committee called:

- the department and agencies of the Environment and Energy portfolio, including the Department of the Environment and Energy, Australian Renewable Energy Agency, Bureau of Meteorology, Clean Energy Finance Corporation, Clean Energy Regulator, Climate Change Authority, Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder, Director of National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

Topics discussed by the committee included:

- update on departmental staffing figures;
- the science of climate change;
- development of new coal fired power stations;
- update on the state of the Great Barrier Reef;
- the mass bleaching event on the Great Barrier Reef during 2016;
- changes to ice sheets in the Antarctic;
- sites on the tentative list for nomination to the World Heritage listing, including Cape York Peninsula;
- yellow crazy ants in the Wet Tropics Area of North Queensland;
- scientific whaling in the Southern Ocean;
- update on the Climate Change 2017 Review;
- the construction of new coal-fired power plants;
- the Clean Energy Finance Corporation legislative mandate;
- renewable energy storage options;
- interruptions to electricity supply;
- the role and reliability standards of the Australian Electricity Market Operator;
- reopening of the Tarkine coastal trails in Tasmania;
- compliance of the Perth Freight Link with the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*;
- Regional Forest Agreements and the protection of threatened species;
- update on feral cats management program;
- Swift Parrot Recovery Program;
- the funding contribution by the zoos based in the United States to the threatened species programs;
- funding of the Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder over the forward years; and
- 2016–17 entitlements of Commonwealth environmental water.