



**AUSTRALIAN SENATE**  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016-17  
Monday, 17 October 2016  
Daily summary

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

The committee met from 9.00 am until 11.00 pm.

The committee called:

the department and agencies of the Environment and Energy portfolio, including the Department of the Environment, Bureau of Meteorology (BoM), Director of National Parks, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Office of the Supervising Scientist, Australian Renewable Energy Agency (ARENA), Clean Energy Regulator, Climate Change Authority, Commonwealth Environmental Water Office Holder, and the National Wind Farm Commissioner. The committee did not hear from the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office and the Department of the Environment in relation to programs 1.2: Environmental Information and Research, 1.3: Carbon Pollution Reduction – Land Sector Initiatives, 2.1: Reducing Australia's Greenhouse Gas Emissions, 2.2: Adapting to Climate Change, 4.1: Water Reform and Program 5.1: Energy due to time constraints and has agreed to hold an a spill-over hearing on Friday, 21 October 2016.

Topics discussed by the committee included:

- the launch of the Bureau of Meteorology's application for smart phones;
- the Bureau's liaison with state authorities and agencies in the lead up to severe weather events and the forecast severity of the upcoming cyclone season;
- the South Australian weather event that occurred on 28-29 September 2016;
- Coral bleaching, marine plastic pollution and the impact of crown-of-thorns starfish on the Great Barrier Reef;
- the future of Macquarie Island and its facilities;
- the rate of return on investments by the Clean Energy Finance Corporation;
- crowd funding by the Threatened Species Commissioner to raise funding for threatened species projects;
- number of complaints received by the National Wind Farm Commissioner;
- update on the funding allocated to Yellow Crazy Ants eradication program in the Wet Tropics;
- update on the Tiger Quoll recovery plan;
- requests to amend the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act (EBPC Act);
- request from NSW Government regarding the use of smart drum lines; and
- the Adani Carmichael mine project.