

Environment and Communications Legislation Committee

The committee met on Tuesday, 28 May 2013 from 9.02 am to 9.26 pm.

The committee called:

- the department and agencies of the Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio, including the Bureau of Meteorology, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, the Director of National Parks and the Land Sector Taskforce.

Among other issues, the following matters were discussed:

- the impact of the budget on department staff numbers and on the provision of programs
- methods for culling feral pigs and the eradication of wild dogs from national parks
- options for national parks to participate in the carbon farming initiative
- visitor numbers and facilities in Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park
- threat abatement plans for marine debris
- the circumstances surrounding the cessation of funding for the Northern Gulf Resource Management Group's ghost net recovery project
- Australia's participation in the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade.
- the proposed life extension works on the multi-purpose icebreaker, research and supply vessel, the *Aurora Australis*.