



**AUSTRALIAN SENATE**  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee  
Budget Estimates 2017-18  
Tuesday, 23 May 2017  
Daily summary

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

The committee met from 9.00am until 8.39pm.

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, Snowy Hydro Ltd, Clean Energy Finance Corporation, Clean Energy Regulator and the Office of the Supervising Scientist.

Some of the topics discussed by the committee included:

- review of the Australian Antarctic Science Strategic Plan;
- ANAO report on the replacement icebreaker vessel;
- funding for the DeGrussa solar project;
- feasibility study on the Snowy Hydro expansion;
- Clean Energy Innovation Fund funding for start-up projects;
- a second power interconnector across the Bass Strait;
- threat abatement plan for the impacts of marine debris on vertebrate marine life;
- the Carbon Farming Initiative ;
- funding for the National Climate Change Adaptation Research Facility ;
- tailings deposition strategy for the Ranger Mine;
- water related impacts of unconventional gas development; and
- security and reliability of the electricity market.

The committee will next meet at **9.00am** on Wednesday, 24 May 2017 in Senate Committee Room 2S3, calling:

- the department and agencies of the Communications and the Arts portfolio, including the National Portrait Gallery, National Museum of Australia, National Gallery of Australia, National Library of Australia, Old Parliament House, National Film and Sound Archive of Australia, Special Broadcasting Service, Australia Post and the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.