

Environment and Communications Legislation Committee

The committee met on Monday, 18 November 2013 from 9.00 am to 10.25 pm.

The committee called:

- the department and agencies of the Environment portfolio, including the Office of the Supervising Scientist, the Bureau of Meteorology, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, the Director of National Parks, the Clean Energy Regulator, the Climate Change Authority, the Murray-Darling Basin Authority, the Commonwealth Environmental Water Office, and the National Water Commission.

Among other issues, the following matters were discussed:

- changes to the Environment portfolio under machinery of government processes, including transfer of some climate change responsibilities to the portfolio and some Indigenous-related matters from the portfolio to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet;
- staffing numbers, and the reduction of staff through voluntary redundancies and natural attrition;
- the transfer of environmental approval powers to state governments.