

Environment and Communications Legislation Committee

The committee met on Monday, 20 October 2014 from 9 am to 11.05 pm.

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

Among other issues, the following matters were discussed:

- general matters relating to staffing and changes to outcomes in 2014–15
- the National Landcare programme, 20 Million Trees programme and Green Army projects
- whaling
- the *State of the Environment* report
- ocean acidification
- natural resource management planning and research networks for climate change
- the Leadbeater's possum
- heritage strategy, community heritage grants and World Heritage matters
- the Indigenous Protected Areas program
- dredging in Queensland
- approval bilateral agreements
- deregulation regarding environmental regulations
- the boggomoss snail
- shark management programs
- the Gladstone bund wall review
- the Roe 8 highway extension
- coal seam gas bore wells
- container deposit legislation
- e-waste disposal
- coal seam gas, including clean-up costs
- the Convention on Chrysotile Asbestos
- emissions reductions investigation and reporting obligations, and the Emissions Reduction Fund
- the National Greenhouse Gas Inventory
- carbon farming and soil carbon methodology
- the Renewable Energy Target
- the Solar Towns program
- a grant for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)
- the Asia-Pacific Rainforest Summit

- the repeal of the carbon tax
- the white paper on agricultural competitiveness
- various matters relating to Antarctica, including the Australian Antarctic Strategic Plan, staffing, marine science expeditions and revenue from Airbus
- South Australian water supply and salinity issues
- the water market
- various matters relating to the Bureau of Meteorology, including a supercomputer, the Australian Climate Observations Reference Network–Surface Air Temperature (ACORN-SAT), eReefs project, Bureau statements on climate change, a review of the tropical cyclone warning service, and bushfire risk and rainfall predictions.
- the Ranger uranium mine site, including the site closure and rehabilitation, and investigations into leach tank failure
- the implementation of the MDBA plan and the MDBA's work plan for 2014–15
- the proposed abolition of the National Water Commission and transfer of its functions
- the management of feral animals in national parks
- the review of marine reserves
- the Waubra wind farm
- matters relating to the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, including the crown-of-thorns starfish, Reef Trust projects, the Reef Ranger boat, Abbot Point dredging and water quality.