

Environment and Communications Legislation Committee

The committee met on Tuesday, 26 May 2015 from 9 am until 11.03 pm.

The committee called the Department and agencies of the Environment portfolio, including the Office of the Supervising Scientist and the Climate Change Authority.

Among other issues, the following matters were discussed:

- ministerial reporting arrangements of the Office of the Supervising Scientist,
- the Minesite Technical Committee,
- electrical connectivity at the Ranger mine site,
- the State of the Environment report,
- Japanese whaling in the Southern Ocean,
- the International Whaling Commission Scientific Committee meeting currently being held in San Diego,
- Australian Marine Mammal Centre grant programs,
- the Southern Ocean Research program,
- research hubs, including those on Developing Northern Australian and Clean Air and Urban Landscapes,
- progress on One-Stop Shop reform,
- streamlining environmental regulation and assessment bi-laterals agreements with state and territory governments,
- environmental assessment of the Port Melville development,
- enforcement and compliance matters under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act, and risk assessment processes for compliance matters,
- the WA Shark Mitigation Strategy Programme,
- project assessment of the Perth Freight Link,
- mine rehabilitation costs,
- coal seam gas mining and its impacts on the environment and water, including approvals under the water trigger,
- weed control,
- Landcare and the Green Army Programme,
- the Community Heritage and Icons Grant programme,
- funding for nominations of potential World Heritage listings, and the potential nomination of the Royal National Park, and the Parramatta Female Factory Precinct, to the World Heritage list,
- the work of the National Heritage Committee and the Heritage Council,
- the Minister's attendance at the World Heritage Committee meeting in June 2015,
- land clearing in Cape York Peninsula,
- Shenhua IESC advice,
- the request by the Whitehaven Coal mine to revise its offset plan,

- the progress of the whale and dolphin protection plan and the dugong protection plan,
- the Kokoda Track program,
- the giant panda program,
- the Tasmanian Wilderness and World Heritage Committee,
- the reservation listing of shark species,
- the importation of dolphins into Australia,
- the Heritage Listing of the Dampier Archipelago (including the Burrup Peninsula),
- emergency Heritage listing provisions,
- the Great Barrier Reef and World Heritage listing,
- funding in the wet tropics to eradicate/manage yellow crazy ants,
- with regard to the Climate Change Authority, staffing resources and the qualifications of board members,
- the trajectory of emission cuts by 30 per cent by 2025,
- storage, use, costs and trading of Commonwealth environmental water, including environmental outcomes and risk management approach,
- applications for imports/exports regarding hazardous wastes, substances and pollutants, and staffing for their management,
- Australia's contribution to the Rotterdam Convention,
- Carbon Pollution Reduction – Land Sector Initiatives,
- the budget for adapting to climate change,
- National Resource Management (NRM) funding and planning for climate change,
- funding cuts for the National Landcare Program and bilateral agreements and investment between states and the Commonwealth,
- biodiversity and conservation strategy review, including processes, timelines and a national approach,
- the Reef 2050 plan, including its implementation and contribution by the Queensland government, and the delivery of targets in relation to the Agricultural Competitiveness Green Paper,
- the Reef Trust, including an investment update, details on payments made, investment strategies and safeguards,
- the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, including maintenance dredging and capital dredging,
- national resource management achievements,
- the 20 million trees program, including contracts and the survival rate of trees planted,
- the Green Army program, including its budget and an update on participants,
- the Threatened Species Commission,
- the threatened species summit, including funding and attendance,
- the Leadbeater's possum advisory group,
- the report on Central Highlands logging,

- the National Research System, including acquisition projects completed in Western Australia, workflow and land management, and
- water quality reduction results in the Reef 2020 plan.