



Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee  
Supplementary Estimates 2022-23  
Friday, 17 February 2022  
Daily summary

The Committee met from 9:00am to 4:00pm.

The Committee called:

- Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water
- Murray-Darling Basin Authority
- Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder
- Australian Competition and Consumer Commission Water Regulation and Compliance Division
- Inspector-General of Water Compliance

The Committee discussed a range of topics, including:

- Accuracy of MDBA ratings of Sustainable Diversion Limit Adjustment Mechanism projects
- Options for addressing delays of state SDLAM projects
- Upcoming Ministerial meeting and water delivery commitments
- Costs and volume of contracted water and Commonwealth entitlements
- Timeline for legislation on ACCC's role to prevent water market manipulation
- Consultation on proposed water code of conduct
- Proposition for National Water Data Hub
- Regulation of behaviour of irrigation infrastructure operators
- ACT recycled water supply
- Volumes, costs and assumptions associated with offsets
- Health concerns related to post-flood blackwater events
- Coorong river sources and salinity
- Water supply/entitlements and water bird health and breeding
- Spending breakdown for Basin Plan
- Release of Water Recovery Strategy
- Potential litigation to enforce South Australia's water entitlements
- Departmental meetings with South Australian River Murray Commissioner
- Measuring and forecasting water flows in the Murray Darling Basin
- New research hub for Goyder Water Research Institute
- Timing of program announcement under Bridging the Gap target
- Control of invasive and protection of native species in the Murray Darling Basin
- eWater projects and models
- Timelines and accreditation of water resource plans
- Impact of disconnection of Lake Bonney on salinity for downstream irrigators
- Consultation with Northern Basin indigenous nations
- Detail on the Inspector-General of Water Compliance's Metering report card 2020-21
- Number and nature of investigations instigated by the Inspector-General
- Technical specifications of water meters and data collection
- Inspector-General engagement with ACCC
- Publication of Inspector-General findings