



Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee
Additional Estimates 2019-20
Monday, 2 March 2020
Daily summary

Here is the summary of today's proceedings in the Environment and Communications Legislation Committee estimates hearing.

The committee met from 9.02am until 11.04pm.

The committee called the environment-related outcomes and agencies of the Agriculture, Water and the Environment portfolio and emissions and energy-related outcomes and agencies of the Industry, Science, Energy and Resources portfolio, including:

- Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment, Bureau of Meteorology, Sydney Harbour Federation Trust, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Director of National Parks and the Threatened Species Scientific Committee; and
- Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources, Snowy Hydro Limited, Australian Renewable Energy Agency, Clean Energy Finance Corporation, Climate Change Authority and the Clean Energy Regulator.

Topics discussed by the committee included:

- impact of the Machinery of Government changes on portfolio departments;
- Bureau of Meteorology's climate data observations;
- proposals to allow commercial development of sites managed by the Sydney Harbour Federation Trust;
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's *Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report*;
- impact on tourism of coral bleaching on the Great Barrier Reef;
- decision to temporarily close Twin Falls gorge in Kakadu National Park;
- threatened species affected by the recent Australian bushfires;
- conservation status of the Australian Sea-lion;
- proposed tourism development at Lake Malbena in the Tasmanian Wilderness World Heritage Area;
- election commitments under the Government's Environment Restoration Fund;
- issuing of grants under the Communities Environment Program;
- update on the construction of the replacement Antarctic icebreaking vessel;
- National Strategy for Electric Vehicles;
- emissions from imported second-hand motor vehicles;
- grant to Shine Energy for a feasibility study into a coal-fired power station at Collinsville in north Queensland;
- Government's Underwriting New Generation Investments program; and
- local Australian industry participation in the Snowy 2.0 project.

The committee will next meet at **9.00 am** on Tuesday, 3 March 2020 in Senate Committee Room 2S3, calling communications and arts outcomes and agencies of the Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications portfolio, including the Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications, Australian Postal Corporation, Special Broadcasting Service Corporation, Australian Broadcasting Corporation, Australian Communications and Media Authority, Office of the eSafety Commissioner, Classification Board, Screen Australia, Australia Council, National Library of Australia, and NBN Co Limited.