



Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee  
Budget Estimates 2021-22  
Friday, 28 May 2021  
Daily summary

Here is the summary of today's proceedings in the Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport Legislation Committee estimates hearing.

The committee met from 9.03am until 4.01pm.

The committee called:

- Interim Inspector-General of Water Compliance;
- Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment
  - Water Division
  - Commonwealth Environmental Water Office
  - Commonwealth Environmental Water Holder;
- Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development and Communications
  - National Water Grid Authority; and
- Murray Darling Basin Authority.

Topics discussed by the committee included:

- Interim Inspector-General appointment process;
- headquarters, locations and staffing of the Office of Water Compliance;
- consultation between the Interim Inspector-General, department, and states regarding the enacting legislation for the Inspector-General;
- meetings with the Natural Resources Access Regulator regarding metering and water theft;
- off-farm water efficiency programs;
- number of projects in the MDB that are currently 'shovel ready';
- recommendations made in the '1200 Bridges Too Far' report by the Australia Institute;
- stocktake of projects that contribute to water savings;
- socio-economic impacts of changes to water entitlements;
- Murray Darling River modelling initiative;
- erosion of the banks at the Barmah Choke; and
- Dungowan Dam project.