



Senate Environment and Communications Legislation Committee
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2019-20
Monday, 21 October 2019
Daily summary

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

The committee met from 9.00am until 10.19pm.

The committee called the department and agencies of the Environment and Energy portfolio, including the Department of the Environment and Energy, Bureau of Meteorology, Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Snowy Hydro Limited, Threatened Species Scientific Committee, Australian Renewable Energy Agency, Director of National Parks, Climate Change Authority, Clean Energy Regulator and Clean Energy Finance Corporation.

Topics discussed by the committee included:

- Department of the Environment and Energy's compliance with disclosure log requirements under the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act);
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority's relationship with the Special Envoy for the Great Barrier Reef, Mr Warren Entsch MP;
- Bureau of Meteorology's outlook for fire threat conditions;
- release of the 2019 Great Barrier Reef Outlook Report by the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority;
- shark control activities in the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park;
- Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the first stage of the Snowy 2.0 Project;
- threat assessment status of the Australian Sea-lion;
- statutory review of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act);
- Government's timetable to ban the export of waste plastic, paper, glass and tyres;
- update on the Government's National Waste Policy action plan;
- PFASs (per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances) contamination on Commonwealth land;
- update on the National Environmental Science Program;
- proposal for a cableway under the Tasmanian Government's Cradle Mountain Master Plan;
- land clearing as a contributor to Australia's total net greenhouse gas emissions;
- Australian Renewable Energy Agency's current funding levels;
- update on the construction of the replacement Antarctic icebreaking vessel;
- international bases in the Australian Antarctic territory;
- level of per capita renewable energy investment in Australia;
- Government's Underwriting New Generation Investments program; and
- Director of National Parks' implementation of the recommendations of the Auditor-General's Report No.49 2018-19 *Management of Commonwealth National Parks*.

The committee will next meet at **9.00 am** on Tuesday, 22 October 2019 in Senate Committee Room 2S3, calling the department and agencies of the Communications and the Arts portfolio, including the Department of Communications and the Arts, Screen Australia, Australia Post, Office of the eSafety Commissioner, Special Broadcasting Service Corporation, Australian Communications and Media Authority, Australia Council, National Library of Australia, Australian Broadcasting Corporation and NBN Co Limited.