

Environment and Communications Legislation Committee

The committee met on Monday, 11 February 2013 from 9.00 am to 10.55 pm.

The committee called the:

- Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) from the Broadband, Communications and the Digital Economy portfolio
- department and agencies of the Climate Change and Energy Efficiency portfolio, including the Clean Energy Regulator and the Climate Change Authority
- department and agencies of the Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities portfolio, including the Bureau of Meteorology, the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, the Director of National Parks and the Land Sector Taskforce.

Among other issues, the following matters were discussed:

- ABC practices surrounding the publishing of Twitter comments on-screen during the Q&A program
- the timing for the allocation of free election broadcasts to political parties
- a meeting of 250 scientists from around the world, hosted by the Commonwealth Government in Hobart to consider comments received during the Expert and Government Review of the Second Order Draft for the Working Group I contribution to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Fifth Assessment
- implications for the Bureau of Meteorology of recent extreme weather events and increasing, severe storms
- whaling and current whaling activities, including the monitoring of Japanese whaling season and entry of Japanese vessel into Australia's exclusive economic zone.