



MEDIA RELEASE

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE ON CLIMATE CHANGE, ENVIRONMENT AND THE ARTS

Inquiry into climate change and biodiversity

*Chair: Tony Zappia MP
Deputy Chair: Mal Washer MP*

House Committee to examine climate impacts on Australia's biodiversity

The House of Representatives Climate Change, Environment and the Arts Committee will conduct an inquiry into Australia's biodiversity in a changing climate.

Committee Chair, Tony Zappia, welcomed the co-referral of this inquiry from the Minister for Climate Change and Energy Efficiency, the Hon Greg Combet AM MP, and the Minister for Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, the Hon Tony Burke MP.

'Climate change has made it critical that we take action to maintain the health of Australia's unique biodiversity', Mr Zappia said. 'The committee looks forward to hearing from a range of organisations and individuals across Australia about building the resilience of Australia's natural environment in a changing climate.'

The terms of reference provide for the committee to inquire into Australia's biodiversity in a changing climate in relation to nationally important ecosystems. The inquiry will have particular regard to:

- terrestrial, marine and freshwater biodiversity in Australia and its territories
- connectivity between ecosystems and across landscapes that may contribute to biodiversity conservation
- how climate change impacts on biodiversity may flow on to affect human communities and the economy
- strategies to enhance climate change adaptation, including promoting resilience in ecosystems and human communities
- mechanisms to promote the sustainable use of natural resources and ecosystem services in a change climate
- an assessment of whether current governance arrangements are well placed to deal with the challenges of conserving biodiversity in a change climate
- mechanisms to enhance community engagement.

The scope of the committee's inquiry will include some case studies of 'nationally important ecosystems', as defined by submissions to the inquiry. All those making submissions to the inquiry are invited to give this matter particular attention.

The Committee will accept submissions addressing the terms of reference until **Friday, 29 July 2011**. Further details about how to make a submission can be obtained from the Committee's website at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/ccea/index.htm>.

For media comment: please contact the Committee Chair, Mr Tony Zappia, on (02) 6277 4147 (Parliament House) and (08) 8265 3100 (electorate office)

For further information: please contact the secretariat on (02) 6277 4580, email ccea.reps@aph.gov.au or visit the committee's webpage at <http://www.aph.gov.au/ccea>