



MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 16 May 2012

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

Inquiry into Australia's biodiversity in a changing climate

Chair: Tony Zappia MP
Deputy Chair: Mal Washer MP

Committee inspects the biologically diverse Coorong

The House Committee on Climate Change, Environment and the Arts is holding a public hearing in Adelaide on Thursday as part of its inquiry into Australia's biodiversity in a changing climate. Evidence will be heard from a range of organisations, including a state government department, a local government council, and not-for-profit environmental organisations.

During its visit to South Australia, Committee members will visit the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth region. The Committee Chair, Mr Tony Zappia MP, said "The Committee looks forward to visiting the important wetlands of the Coorong, which are vital for the conservation of biodiversity. The Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth region contains wetlands that have been recognised internationally as some of Australia's most significant. The region has a very high degree of species richness and endemism—many of the species found here are found nowhere else in the world."

Mr Zappia added, "The Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth region is part of Australia's largest river system. Its wetlands are also said to be very sensitive to changes in climate. The Committee will be interested to hear about some of the plans being put in place in the region to better prepare for a changing climate."

Details of the public hearing are as follows:

Time: 9.40 am

Date: Thursday, 17 May 2012

Location: The Watershed Function Centre, 665 Salisbury Highway, Mawson Lakes, South Australia

9.40 am	City of Salisbury Council
10.20 am	South Australian Department of Environment and Natural Resources
11.10 am	Conservation Council of South Australia
11.50 am	Fixing Our Country program

The public hearing will be broadcast live at: http://www.aph.gov.au/News_and_Events/Watch_Parliament.

Further details about the inquiry, including the terms of reference, can be obtained from the Committee's website at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/ccbio>

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

For inquiry 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>