



**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*

Coral reefs and the wet tropics in a changing climate

The House Committee on Climate Change, Environment and the Arts is visiting North Queensland as part of its inquiry into Australia’s biodiversity in a changing climate. During its visit, the Committee will hold a public hearing in Townsville, to gather evidence from researchers, scientists and government organisations on the impacts of climate change on the Great Barrier Reef and the Wet Tropics rainforests of North Queensland. The Committee will learn about the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority’s National Reef Education Centre, Reef HQ Aquarium, and its contributions to biodiversity conservation research and community engagement on the impacts of climate change on the Great Barrier Reef.

The Committee will receive briefings from the Wet Tropics Management Authority on the biodiverse landscape in and around the Daintree National Park, including on the connectivity and buyback programs that have been implemented in the area. The Committee will meet with representatives from James Cook University to discuss the purpose of the Daintree Rainforest Observatory, its relation to other facilities in North Queensland, key planned experiments focussing on climate change and broader issues concerning climate change and the Wet Tropics rainforests. The Committee will learn about the canopy crane research facility, used by scientists from around the world to undertake a range of rainforest canopy related research projects.

The Committee Chair, Mr Tony Zappia MP, said ‘the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area of North Queensland and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park are two very important Australian ecosystems. The Committee looks forward to hearing from some of the region’s dedicated scientists as to the major threats and the necessary strategies we need to put in place to protect these valuable ecosystems from the impacts of climate change.’

Details of the public hearing are as follows:
Time: 11.30 am
Date: Thursday, 5 July 2012
Location: Pandora Room, Holiday Inn Townsville, 334 Flinders Mall, Townsville

11.30 am	Centre for Tropical Biodiversity and Climate Change
12.10 pm	Australian Coral Reef Society
12.50 pm	Suspension
1.30 pm	Australian Institute of Marine Science
2.10 pm	Wet Tropics Management Authority

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>

