



MEDIA RELEASE

Issued: 19 September 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*

Biodiversity inquiry: Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies to give evidence

The House Standing Committee on Climate Change, Environment and the Arts is holding a public hearing in Canberra tomorrow, as part of its inquiry into Australia's biodiversity in a changing climate. The Director of Research for Indigenous Country and Governance of the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies, Dr Lisa Strelein, will appear before the Committee.

The Committee anticipates discussing the current research projects being undertaken by the Institute, as they relate to the effects of biodiversity loss on Indigenous communities. The Committee also anticipates hearing about the funding and research priorities of the Institute, and about the implications of biodiversity loss for the maintenance and transmission of Indigenous laws and knowledge.

Committee Chair, Tony Zappia, said that 'the Committee is in the final stages of collecting evidence for the biodiversity inquiry, having completed its interstate hearing and site inspection program. The Committee is looking forward to meeting with Dr Strelein tomorrow and hearing about the current research being undertaken by the Institute as relevant to the inquiry.'

Details of the public hearing are as follows:

Time: 10.10 am (following a short private Committee meeting)

Date: Thursday, 20 September 2012

Location: Committee Room 1R4, Parliament House, Canberra

10.10 am	Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
10.50 am	Close

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 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>