



MEDIA RELEASE

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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 in final stages of biodiversity inquiry

The House Committee on Climate Change, Environment and the Arts is holding a public hearing in Canberra on 12 October as part of its inquiry into Australia's biodiversity in a changing climate. Having completed its interstate hearings and site inspections, the Committee is now conducting final hearings in Canberra.

The Committee will discuss issues that have arisen throughout the inquiry, including natural resource management and the move towards adaptive management, wildlife corridors and connectivity projects, research funding priorities and programs, policies to manage invasive species and species decline, and community awareness and education projects.

Evidence will be given on research funding by the Australian Research Council and the Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education. The Committee will also hear from the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority on the state of the Reef's coral cover, as well as on its Reef Guardian program. The Chair of the National Wildlife Corridors Plan Advisory Group will update the Committee on the status and content of the Draft Plan, and the Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities will discuss the government's approach to managing biodiversity in an uncertain climatic future.

Committee Chair, Tony Zappia, said that 'the Committee is looking forward to discussing the issues that have arisen throughout the inquiry, including Australia's research priorities and the National Wildlife Corridors Plan, and giving the government departments an opportunity to address these and other issues.'

Details of the public hearing are as follows:

Time: 10.45 am

Date: Friday, 12 October 2012

Location: Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House, Canberra

10.45 am	Australian Research Council
11.30 am	Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education
1.00 pm	Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority
1.45 pm	National Wildlife Corridors Plan Advisory Group
2.45 pm	Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities

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 and the first interim report, 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>