



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*

Biodiversity and climate change inquiry: report released

The Climate Change, Environment and the Arts Committee today presented the second interim report of its inquiry into Australia's biodiversity in a changing climate.

The report describes issues arising from site visits to: the Melbourne Museum and Western Port bird habitats in Victoria; Adelaide and the Coorong, Lower Lakes and Murray Mouth region in South Australia; Kakadu National Park's wetlands in the Northern Territory; and the reef and rainforest areas of Tropical North Queensland.

The report discusses the importance of baseline monitoring of environmental patterns, the rapid spread of myrtle rust, successful community programs on stormwater recycling and reef conservation initiatives, and the valuable collaborations between Indigenous communities and governments in biodiversity management.

Committee Chair, Tony Zappia MP, said that 'a number of themes have emerged throughout the site inspections the Committee has carried out in the course of its inquiry. For example, during its visit to the Australian Botanic Garden in March this year, the Committee heard about the devastating effect the spread of myrtle rust was having on native plant species in New South Wales. In July, during site inspections in Tropical North Queensland, the Committee heard that myrtle rust had spread up into Queensland's tropical rainforests. This highlights the need for cooperation between all levels of government on effective invasive species management.

'In the course of the inquiry, the Committee has seen some great community projects, including stormwater recycling in Salisbury Council, and Reef Guardians in the Great Barrier Reef catchment, contributing to the sustainable use of natural resources and successful biodiversity management.'

Although the Committee is still in the process of gathering evidence to the inquiry, it is expected that this second interim report will be the last update on the inquiry's progress before the final report and recommendations are released next year.

The second interim report is available from <http://www.aph.gov.au/ccbio>.

For media comment: please contact the Committee Chair, Tony Zappia MP, 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 inquiry webpage at <http://www.aph.gov.au/ccbio>