



**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 Final report released

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

Key recommendations include:

- the development of national environmental accounts
- the development of a central national database that stores scientifically accredited information
- longer funding cycles for data collection to allow a proper baseline to be developed so that long run assessments of climate change effects can be made
- continued progress with the National Plan for Environmental Information
- the development of a sustainable funding model for the Atlas of Living Australia
- a review of how natural resource management bodies are funded and supported to improve their standards, consistency and quality.

The Committee collected evidence for the inquiry from across the country. This included site inspections, briefings, and public hearings in each of Australia's states and territories.

Committee Chair, Tony Zappia MP, said 'Australia has a rich biodiversity. Australia is one of 17 "megadiverse" countries and has 15 national biodiversity hotspots. The fact that climate change is occurring is well documented. But its effect on Australia's environment and its biodiversity is unknown beyond the models and theories that are being used to make informed projections.'

'Climate change effects will vary greatly across species. Some will benefit but some will reduce in numbers, perhaps to extinction.'

'A lot of work is being done on data collection to help us make decisions about the environmental effects of climate change. But it needs to be better co-ordinated. Also, climate change and the environment's response to it will continue over decades. Funding cycles need to be longer to build up a baseline so that we can monitor long run effects.'

A minority report from Ms Nola Marino MP is attached to the Committee's report.

The final 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>.